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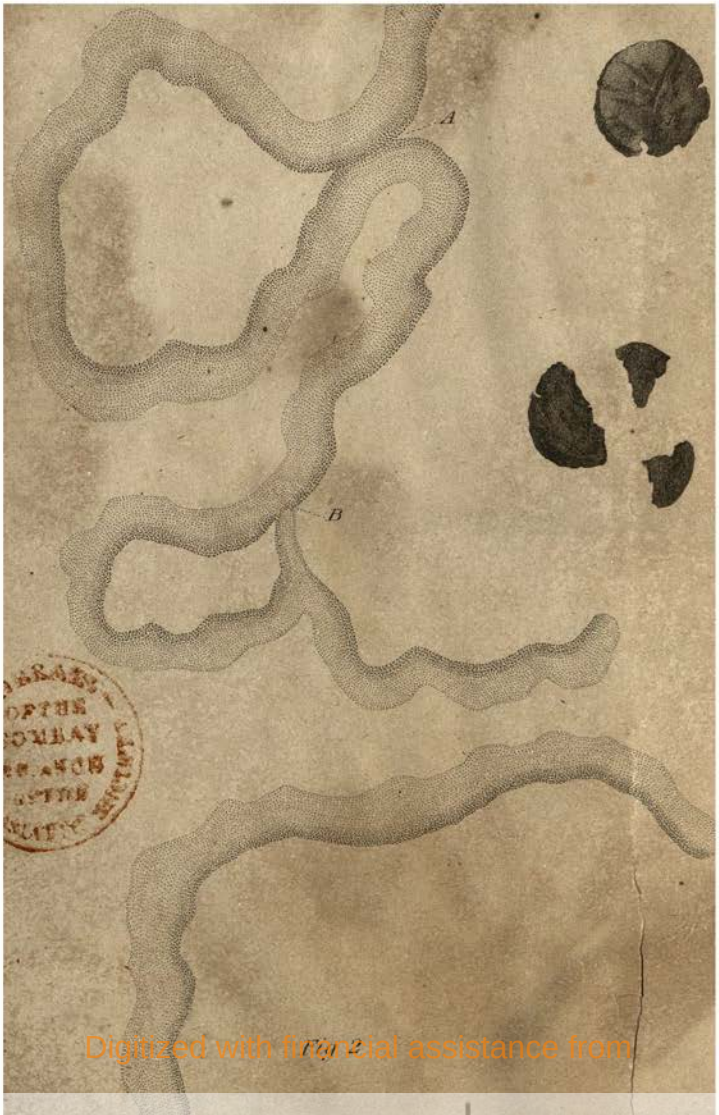

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MEMOIRS

OF THE

LIFE AND WRITINGS

OF THE LATE

JOHN COAKLEY LETTSOM,

M.D; LL.D; F.R.S; F.A.S; F.L.S; &c. &c. &c.

WITH A SELECTION FROM HIS

Correspondence.

By THOMAS JOSEPH PETTIGREW, F.L.S.

MEMBER OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS; SURGEON EXTRAORDINARY TO THEIR ROYAL HIGHNESSES THE DUKES OF KENT AND SUSSEX; SURGEON TO THE UNIVERSAL DISPENSARY; FELLOW AND REGISTRAR OF THE MEDICAL SOCIETY; REGISTRAR AND SECRETARY OF THE ROYAL HUMANE SOCIETY; HONORARY MEMBER AND SECRETARY OF THE PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON; LECTURER ON ANATOMY AND PHYSIOLOGY, &c. &c. &c.

Floriferis ut apes in saltibus omnia libant.
LUCRET.

26672 a

IN THREE VOLUMES.

VOL. III.

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1817.

TO THE

PRESIDENT AND FELLOWS

OF THE

MEDICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON,

THIS VOLUME,

CONTAINING

THE MEDICAL PAPERS AND CORRESPONDENCE

OF THEIR

HIGHLY ESTEEMED PRESIDENT,

THE LATE

JOHN COAKLEY LETTSOM,

M. D; LL.D; F.R.S; F.A.S; F.L.S; &c. &c. &c.

IS RESPECTFULLY INSCRIBED,

BY THEIR

MOST FAITHFUL AND OBEDIENT SERVANT,

T. J. PETTIGREW.

Bolt Court, Fleet Street,
Jan. 1, 1817.

INTRODUCTION.

AS this Volume is published separately from those containing the Memoirs of the Life and Writings of the late Dr. Lettsom, with a Selection from his Correspondence, on Literary, Philosophical, and Miscellaneous Subjects, it is necessary to explain the manner in which the Editor has thought proper to arrange the Papers and Letters.

Although this Volume is entirely devoted to Medical Science, or subjects intimately connected with Medicine, it has not been in the power of the Editor to arrange them either according to time, place, or subject. The Letters, however, from America, follow in succession. The necessity of connecting the Correspondence of each individual, precluded the possibility of attending to the time at which different Letters from various correspondents were composed; and as most of the Letters treat not only of one topic, but of many, the

order, according to the subject, could not be preserved.

In addition to these circumstances, may be added the lapse of time which occurred before many of Dr. Lettsom's Letters arrived for the Editor (several not being received until the volume was at press), which, had they reached him earlier, might probably in a few instances have altered the order of the Correspondents.

It has been the chief aim of the Editor not to print any Letter but what he conceived to be either interesting or instructive. It has also been a constant object of attention to prevent this volume from becoming inconveniently large: hence many of the Letters appear as extracts; for unless the whole of the subjects mentioned in them are inserted, the usual epistolary introduction and conclusion are omitted.

Articles I. and II. in this volume treat of a disease, the fatality of which renders it a subject of great importance. The first of these is the substance of a reply to some observations and inquiries addressed to Dr. Lettsom by Professor Kluyskens, of Ghent. The best method of treating the Croup appears to be, 1st, by bleeding; and 2dly, by calomel.

Articles III. and IV. consist of cases of Hydrophobia. The treatment adopted in these

cases was in one instance that of a free exhibition of opium, and anointing of the body with the compound mercurial liniment; in the other, bleeding (though not to any important extent), the internal exhibition of calomel and opium in large doses, and the anointing of the body with camphor and opium, dissolved in the oil of almonds. These cases proved fatal. The seat of Hydrophobia, it is extremely probable, is in the brain: the inflammation in this case is of a specific nature, and most likely can only be relieved by a specific remedy. Regarding the seat of the disease, however, as being in the brain, it would appear that the mode of treatment should be by repeated bleedings, cold applications to the head, frequent purging, and, to diminish vascular action, the exhibition of digitalis. Tobacco enemas have, according to Mr. Sawrey, under the direction of Dr. Clutterbuck, and the late Dr. Marshal, suspended the disease for a time. This is well worthy of notice. See Marshal on Mania and Hydrophobia, p. 135, *et seq.*

Article V. is a case involved in much obscurity. The disease was supposed to be Inflammation of the Blood Vessels of the Abdominal Muscles.

Article VI. is a case of Diabetes, in which,

after the unsuccessful trial of various methods of treatment, the Tincture of Cantharides in large doses appeared to relieve the disease.

Article VII. is a case of very complicated disease: Angina Pectoris, joined with other morbid affections.

Article VIII. a case of Hydrothorax. As this disease is attended in all its stages with inflammation, the lancet is most likely the means to which attention should be directed for the cure of it. The digitalis is also an important remedy.

Article IX. Case of Chorea Sancti Viti following Pneumonia. The transition of peripneumonic symptoms to those of chorea is singular, and was unexpected. The propriety of tonic medicines in this affection is questionable; as it most likely is dependent on some affection of the brain, purgatives would appear to be proper. The necessity of delivering a guarded prognostic in cases not usually fatal is strongly evidenced in this case.

Article X. is composed of the relation of several interesting cases of Spasmodic Affections arising from trivial incidents. Large doses of opium and the use of the cold bath appear to be the best remedies in these cases.

Article XI. A case of Epilepsy, which ap-

pears to have been caused by the deposition of ossific matter on the dural mater.

Article XII. Case of Contracted Ileum, accompanied with extensive disease of other parts of the abdominal viscera.

Article XIII. is the relation of a very singular case, in which Phthisis Pulmonalis was caused by the lodgment of a portion of foil in the trachea.

Article XIV. A case of Constipation from Indurated Fæces, the continuance of which produced ulceration of the vagina.

Article XV. Notices on the Discussions in the Medical Society of London respecting the Tussis Convulsiva. The opinion of several eminent practitioners on the efficacy of various remedies for this disease are briefly stated.

Article XVI. Cursory Remarks on some Diseases in December 1808. These are principally concerning Scarlatina and Menorrhagia. A curious case of unexpected recovery from extensive disease in the abdomen is detailed.

Article XVII. Case of Small Pox occurring to a female three months advanced in pregnancy successfully treated.

The Letters composing Part II. are of a very miscellaneous nature, containing a variety of observations, by different practitioners of emi-

nence, on most species of disease, and the remedies that have been, within the last forty years, recommended for the cure or relief of them.

Letter XXX. communicates a curious fact. The letters of Doctors Rush, Hosack, Mitchill, W. Thornton, and Mease, on the origin, &c. of the Pestilential Fever at Philadelphia, will be found particularly interesting.

Since the printing of the Correspondence, a particular account of this dreadful epidemic has fallen into the possession of the editor. It is written by Dr. Jesse Thomson of Philadelphia, and is here inserted :—

" Previous to giving an account of the Pestilential Fever, it will be proper to mention some of the diseases which appeared in this city before that disease, and the state of the weather during its prevalence. Among the disorders that made their appearance previous to the Yellow Fever, is the *Influenza.* This complaint spread through different parts of the city, and seized some in a very violent degree, a copious sweating commonly carried the disease off; some patients labouring under this contagious catarrh sweated to such a degree that they not only wetted their shirts, but the very sheets that covered them. It spread too at the same time through the principal parts of the

Union. It appeared to have in a number of cases a particular action on the nervous system. In general it was relieved or cured by gentle laxatives and antimonials. It disappeared entirely in this city when the Yellow Fever became prevalent, and seemed altogether absorbed in the reigning malignant fever. Dr. Sydenham has taken notice of this circumstance, for he says, the plague when it raged in London became a *royal monarchical disease*, and absorbed every other. There were likewise a few Remittent and Intermittent Fevers, which made their appearance in different parts of the city. Dysenteries now and then also appeared, and in some cases proved very severe. The natural Small Pox and Hooping Cough prevailed in several parts of the city, and proved fatal to many. The disorders incident to children during the hot months did not appear so violent and so general this season as I have seen them some seasons before. There were likewise a number of chronic complaints, which are not uncustomary in a place where luxury and dissipation are preferred to plainness and simplicity of manners and diet.

"The weather during August, September, and October, was remarkably dry; scarcely any rain falling till toward the end of October.

There have been few instances of such a long series of hot dry weather here: it proved exceedingly favourable to the action of contagion.

"This is a brief account of diseases that preceded the malignant Fever, and of the weather during its prevalence; but, though imperfect as it is, I think it a piece of necessary information.

"After these cursory observations, I shall now give you a brief account of the origin, progress, and history of the disease. This malignant Yellow Fever, which has committed such dreadful ravages in Philadelphia, first appeared in Water-street, and between Arch and Race-streets, towards the end of July, and was generally supposed to have been introduced by the French privateer *Sans Culottes*, with her prize the *Flora*, and a vessel called the *Amelia* from some part of the *West Indies*. The College of Physicians have determined it to be an imported disease. This mortality began to increase near the vicinity of those suspected vessels, and spread at last into every part of that square between Arch and Race-streets. By this time it had insinuated itself into several parts of the city, particularly Carter's alley, all which was easily traced to Water-street. Toward the latter end of August it made gradual advances up

Race and Arch-streets, and finally penetrated into every quarter of the City, the Northern Liberty, and Southwark, carrying destruction with it wherever it went. In Water-street it carried off above fifty persons between Arch and Race-streets. In Race-street, between Front and Second-streets, above fifty persons more fell victims to it, and and thus every street where it raged showed dreadful marks of desolation.

Disease rag'd wide, and Death, with pallid face,
Stalk'd thro' the gloomy streets with rapid pace,
Laugh'd *Physic* to defiance, claim'd his right,
And o'er his victims triumph'd in our sight;
Slow moving on, the dismal hearse's sound
Announc'd the sad mortality around,
Plung'd all felicity in *Lethe's* stream,
And show'd *Elysium* here to be a dream.'

"The people, terrified at the tremendous appearance of this disease, flew to the country with precipitation. It is calculated that about 17,000 of the citizens removed to the country to avoid this destructive Yellow Fever. The College of Physicians met early to take it into consideration, and recommended to their fellow citizens a plan for preventing its further progress. Committees afterwards met for the purpose of relieving the distressed state of the city. Bushill became the hospital for

poor persons afflicted with this disease, and this hospital was under the management of the Committee. I cannot pass this part over without mentioning an instance of the most exalted benevolence and magnanimity. *Stephen Girard,* a wealthy merchant, sensibly perceiving the miserable state of the wretched sufferers at Bushill, made a voluntary offer to superintend that hospital. Peter Helm, inspired with the same exalted motives, offered his services; and on the same day they both attended to their laudable office. Nothing but the most exalted ideas of humanity could have impelled them to such a dangerous office,

'Where Death's shafts flew thick around.

"Three hundred patients have been in that hospital at one time afflicted with the fever. It is almost impossible to conceive the consternation the people were in after the Yellow Fever began to rage in the city. Nothing but dismay and terror appeared in the countenances of people remaining behind. It appeared as if the '*Cold hand of death lay heavy on their heads.*' Here was exhibited a true picture of human misery: fathers would desert their children in the hours of sickness and death; children their fathers; wives their hus-

bands, and husbands their wives; sometimes a poor infant would be found struggling among five or six of its deceased friends:——But this is enough: let it suffice to show you the calamitous situation of the city and its inhabitants. Too much cannot be said in praise of the Committees, who signally exerted themselves in the cause of humanity, to take care of the poor distressed creatures who laboured under the disease, to bind the broken-hearted, and heal the wounds that poverty and sickness had made.

"When this disease first made its appearance, the physicians made use of the tonic plan to its fullest extent, from the authority of respectable West India practitioners; but Dr. Rush, alarmed at the ill success attending the use of the tonic medicines, and at the loss of four patients out of five from the inefficacy of them, flew to the more effectual remedies of bleeding and purging. Never was there so much confusion among the faculty exhibited as at this time; but the remedies tried and recommended by the authority of that excellent physician Dr. Rush, became at last very popular, and were adopted by all the physicians.

"It has been said by Dr. Lining, who has had much experience in the Yellow Fever, that

the negroes were exempted from it when it prevailed in South Carolina; but that could not be said of the Yellow Fever which prevailed here; for a number of negroes died of it; and they were more subject to it in proportion as they receded from the true black. This is an observation verified by experience.

"It likewise affected all ages, from the child in the month to the aged and infirm. Tipplers and drunkards were very subject to the disease, and numbers fell victims to it; particular habits were more severely handled than others; corpulent persons suffered very much from the fever, and few of that habit, who were seized with it, recovered. In narrow lanes and dirty places it prevailed in a most terrible degree: a great number of the *filles de joie* in the neighbourhood of the theatre submitted their miserable lives to the destructive hand of this tyrant disease. Preventatives were of little use; vinegar, smelling-bottles, thieves' vinegar, tobacco, and the whole round of preventatives, sunk into disuse, from their total inefficacy. The disease, after the infection was taken into the body, generally did not appear till the third, twelfth, or fourteenth days. There were some exceptions to this, for in some it appeared earlier than the third day after the

infection was taken into the body, and in others even later than the fourteenth. More men were affected with the disease than women.

This disease came on with a chilliness, which was soon followed by a smart fever, quick tense pulse, subject in some cases to pauses and intermissions in its strokes, parched and dry skin, great thirst, violent pain in the head, back, and limbs, inflamed or swelled eyes, florid countenances, moist white tongue, giddiness of the head, respiration impeded, with a great oppression and burning sensation at the præcordia, violent vomiting in some, but in all there was a constant nausea and retching. Costiveness was most commonly connected with the disease in the beginning; the stools were of a green, bilious, or yellow colour: the urine was in some light, in others of a dark red colour. These febrile symptoms generally terminated in a state of debility; the eyes would then become yellow, frequently connected with a yellow colour of the skin. This stage of the complaint became often exceedingly dangerous to the patient; the pulse would sometimes sink immediately, difficult respiration, with an increased oppression at the præcordia, would follow, and a violent retching and vomiting of every thing taken into the

stomach would take place, which, if not speedily relieved, would terminate in that fatal symptom *black vomiting*, hæmorrhages from different parts of the body, as the mouth, nose, arms, &c. hiccup, sighing, distressed agitations of the body, violent determinations to the head, lungs, and bottom of the abdomen, producing in some a constant desire to make water, comatose delirium, and death. This was the general course of the disease; but there was a variety of symptoms which occurred in different persons. In some persons those violent hæmorrhages (which very frequently occurred after the febrile symptoms left them), sometimes took place during the fever. In some, the highest degree of putrescency began immediately; in such case a dark jaundice colour of the eyes and skin came on very soon, a great prostration of strength, and delirium, which quickly proved fatal. The tongue in many was yellow, in others a perfect blackness not only furred the tongue, but the teeth too. In some it would come on with all the symptoms of a low *typhus* (this was more common during the very hot weather). In many, after the febrile symptoms left them, *abscesses* of a very alarming nature appeared in different parts of the body. I have seen an abscess in

the thigh which has discharged above two gallons of purulent matter.

Another circumstance which is worthy of observation is, that the majority that laboured under this infectious disease were not at all yellow. After a coolness in the atmosphere took place, the disease assumed a more inflammatory appearance, and bore bleeding much better. This disease, as I mentioned before, commonly terminated in the recovery of the patient on the 3d, 5th, 7th, or 9th days, or were succeeded by a train of formidable symptoms, as deep sighing, hiccup, violent oppression at the præcordia, black vomit, putrescent yellow colour of the skin, with petechiæ over the body, hæmorrhages from the nose, fauces, gums, anus, urinary organs. Subsultus tendinum in some, violent determinations to different parts of the body, fierce delirium in some, and comatose delirium in others; and at last death would be ushered in to terminate their miserable existence.

Giving you this account I have been brief, and if there is any inaccuracy in it, I know you will forgive me. The distress of Philadelphia at this time cannot be pictured by the most glowing pencil! the Genius of Humanity who bound the broken-hearted, can alone paint the

scenes of misery which were daily exhibited. Five thousand souls, I believe, were hurried into an awful eternity by this terrible fever in a few months. The duties of humanity made me stay in the city during this calamitous time. I attended two patients labouring under this disease, and, though amidst the infectious effluvia, through the mercy of Omnipotence am still preserved. My brother is still confined to his bed from effects of the Fever, and is not out of danger, having abscesses in different parts of his body.

"Amidst all these cares and anxieties, I had to deplore the loss of a *beloved father*, who died toward the end of August; but my severe troubles were somewhat alleviated when my heart in humble obedience to my Creator said, '*Thy will be done.*' J. T."

The conduct of Dr. Rush at the time the Yellow Fever prevailed at Philadelphia, can never be sufficiently extolled. This able physician departed this life on the 19th of April, 1813. He had long enjoyed the friendship of Dr. Lettsom, who, sympathizing with all the friends of science and humanity for the loss of this gentleman, printed for distribution among his own particular friends and correspondents,

a sketch of the Life and Character of his friend, under the title of "Recollections of Dr. Rush." In this tract the following quotation from a correspondent, which, from a letter by Dr. Mease written after the decease of Dr. Lettsom, appears to be incorrect, is inserted. Dr. Mease's Letter is also subjoined, as the reader cannot but feel interested in the account of the decease of Dr. Rush.

"We have been afflicted with an epidemic, termed Typhus, or Spotted Fever (which has prevailed for some years in the New England States), for the last two months. It being in general under the controul of medicine, has not proved very fatal. The symptoms are, a general prostration of strength. The remedies which have proved most successful have been stimulants—large quantities of brandy taken inwardly, &c. In his own case, Dr. Rush mistook it for the pleurisy, and was freely bled, which is thought to have occasioned his death."

Dr. Mease to Dr. Lettsom.

"Dear Sir, *Philadelphia, Dec.* 21, 1815.

"I had lately the pleasure to receive your 'Recollections of the late Dr. Rush,' for which I thank you. I was much concerned, however, to find, that you had given currency

to the incorrect statement propagated after his death, 'that he had mistaken his disease for the pleurisy, and was bled freely, which was thought to have occasioned his death.' Your correspondent was unfortunately misled by common report, which is too often incorrect; and in the present instance this incorrectness is to be particularly regretted, because it favours the diffusion of error, and implicates the medical judgment of a man, who was more extensively consulted by his countrymen than any other physician that ever lived in the United States; and it gratifies the little and mean spirits among us, who exulted in the report of his having fallen a victim to his attachment to the depleting system, and who will be glad to find that the report has been circulated in Europe. Dr. Rush was not afflicted with '*Typhus or Spotted Fever*,' but a true pleurisy; and the blood, so far from being '*freely*' taken, amounted only to ten ounces in quantity: more was not taken away (except locally), although the pain in his side, after having been relieved by the operation, returned with severity; and the disease ended as inflammatory affections of the lungs often do in such habits as that of Dr. Rush. The case was strictly as follows:

"Dr. Rush in the early part of his life, had been subject to a cough, which he kept under by occasional small bleedings, great temperance in diet, and by a careful accommodation of his dress to our inconstant climate. He had been attacked by a cough several months previously to his last illness, and in consequence of it, he had abridged his customary proportion of animal food (in the use of which he was at all times very moderate), and left off entirely the use of wine.

"The effects of these retrenchments alone would have been felt by frames more vigorous than that of Dr. Rush; but in his case, and at his time of life, they could not fail greatly to diminish the muscular power, and increase the excitability of his system, to the causes that produced the fatal disease. Other causes co-operated. During the time alluded to, he was engaged in extensive practice, had performed his tour of duty at the Pennsylvania Hospital, and at the close of the session in March had given two lectures daily, of an hour each: he also assisted in the examination of a large class of candidates for medical degrees in the university of Pennsylvania, twice a day, and at night he either was engaged in study, or in answering the numerous letters of applicants for

medical advice from every part of the continent. Thus by such unremitted corporeal and mental exertion he wasted the powers of life, and predisposed his system to the operation of the variable atmosphere that caused the affection of his lungs.

"He was attacked by his last illness on the night of the 14th April 1813. I had been absent from the City, and on my return called to see him in the evening. I found him alone with a lecture before him, and a pen in his hand. Having before hinted to him that he ought to relax in his studies, I said, 'What, Doctor, always at your studies?' he replied, 'Yes, Doctor, I am revising a lecture, for I feel every day more and more like a dying man.' Alas! how prophetic his words! Upon my observing that I hoped he did not feel indisposed, he replied, 'No; but at my age I deem life particularly precarious, and I am, moreover, anxious to leave my manuscripts as perfect as possible for the benefit of my son. We conversed for an hour or more upon various medical subjects, and I heard him read an affectionate letter to a relation in a distant State; who had asked his opinion upon an important occasion. A person having called for a letter of advice, I retired to another room, where I remained near an

hour with his family. Upon returning to him, I found him sitting with his feet close to the fire, and after a moment's stay, I wished him good night. Mrs. Rush came in as I went out; and I subjoin her own statement of the progress of his attack, and the remedies used. This statement was drawn up at my request, that there might be no doubt as to the accuracy of every particular on the distressing subject:

'At nine o'clock in the evening of Wednesday the 14th April 1813, Dr. Rush, after having been as well as usual through the day, complained of chilliness, and general indisposition, and said he would go to bed. While his room was preparing, and a fire making, he became so cold, that he called for some brandy and drank it; he then went to his room, bathed his feet in warm water, got into a warm bed, and took some hot drink: a fever soon came on, attended with great pain in his limbs and in his side; he passed a restless night; but after day-light a perspiration came on, and all the pains were relieved except that in his side, which became more acute. He sent for a bleeder, and had ten ounces of blood taken from his arm, with evident relief. At ten o'clock Dr. Dorsey saw him, heard what had been done, and approved of the treatment, ob-

served that his pulse was calm, but rather weak, and advised him to drink plentifully of wine whey, which was immediately given to him. He remained the rest of the day, and on Friday, with but little apparent disease, though never quite free from fever, and always complaining when he tried to take a long breath. On the morning of Saturday he awoke with an acute pain in his side, and desired that the bleeder might be sent for: to this I objected on account of the weak state of his pulse. I proposed sending for Dr. Dorsey, but Dr. Rush would not consent to his being disturbed. He reminded me of his having had a cough all the winter, and said, "this disease is taking hold of my lungs, and I shall go off in a consumption."

At eight o'clock, Dr. Dorsey saw him, and upon feeling his pulse, objected to his losing any more blood, and called in Dr. Physick, who agreed in the opinion that bleeding was improper. The pain in his side, however, continuing, and his breathing becoming more difficult, Dr. Physick consented to his losing three ounces of blood from his side, by cupping. This operation relieved him, so that he fell into a refreshing sleep, and towards the evening of Saturday his fever went off, and he passed a

comfortable night; and on Sunday morning seemed free from disease. When Dr. Physick saw him, he told me that Dr. Rush was doing well, that nothing now appeared necessary but to give him as much nourishment as he could take. He drank porter and water, and conversed with strength and sprightliness, believing that he was getting well, until about four o'clock in the afternoon, when his fever came on again, but in a moderate degree. At five o'clock Dr. Physick and Dr. Dorsey visited him, and found him not so well as in the morning, but not appearing to apprehend what so soon followed; for at that time nothing was ordered different from the morning. At nine o'clock they again visited him, when they found him so low, as to apprehend a fatal termination of his disease. Stimulants of the strongest kind were then administered: you, my friend, know with how little effect!'

I was constantly with Dr. Rush all the next day, and witnessed the progress of that debility which deprived me of my friend, the medical republic of its ornament, and our country of one of its best men, and the early, steady, and zealous supporter of our independence.

It was the greatest absurdity to suppose that any man, acquainted in the least with medicine,

could mistake pleurisy for typhus, the symptoms of which diseases are so different. The loss of the blood taken away from Dr. Rush, would have been prescribed in his case by any medical man in Philadelphia; and I fancy that the remedy would have been sanctioned by the greater part of European physicians, strong as are their prejudices against the operation; for, although it certainly weakened him, yet had it not been ordered, it is highly probable that the excessive pain in his side, which it is evident was firmly fixed a few hours after his first indisposition, from its not being removed as the other pains were by the perspiration that came on the first night of his illness, nor by the bleeding,—and the great difficulty of breathing, which shewed pulmonary congestion,—would have exhausted him even before the period at which the disease finished its course.

It is with difficulty that I can refrain from dwelling on the character of Dr. Rush, his eminent talents and virtues; and from stating the strong claims which his memory has from his Country to veneration, from his zealous exertions as a patriot of our truly glorious revolution, and in promoting the establishment of our excellent Federal Constitution, notwith-

standing the shafts of calumny directed against him on both occasions; and how much Philadelphia owes him for the benevolent, civil, patriotic, and religious institutions which he either originated or powerfully supported; and for assisting in raising the medical character of our university and city to the proud station it holds in the world; from the humane exertion of his medical talents in the service of the distressed sick, and the influence of his example upon others. These traits I leave to his biographer, whoever he may be. My intention in addressing this communication to you, was only to correct what I deemed an important error as to the cause of his lamented death; and having done so, I hope to your satisfaction, I beg you will accept of my sincere wishes for your health and happiness.

JAMES MEASE."

From Letter CXIII. it appears that Dr. Walker of Leeds was the first physician who recommended the use of the oil of turpentine, which is found to be an effectual cure for tape-worm. Dr. Lettsom employed the remedy in the form of an enema, in cases of Ascarides, with success.

In closing this Introduction, the Editor feels great pleasure in acknowledging the very friendly and polite attentions of Sir Thomas Gery Cullum, Bart. Dr. Jenner, Dr. Stokes, Dr. Dixon, Dr. Walker, and Dr. John Johnstone, from whom he has had the honour to receive many of their late friend's Letters, by which the Correspondence is in many places connected, and thereby rendered of much greater value and interest.

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PART I.

PAPERS.

ARTICLE I.

ON CYNANCHE TRACHEALIS.

Professor Klyskens, of Ghent, has favoured me with the following observations and queries, respecting the croup:

"Our country has been, and is yet ravaged with a scourge, which the utmost efforts of our physicians have hitherto been unable to overcome. I mean the croup, which for the last four or five years has raged with increased violence and fatality; and I shall thank you for any observations on the disease, and your answers to the following queries:

1. "Do you think that the croup is contagious? and is it more frequent now than formerly?

2. "Is it more frequent in the northern than in the southern climates?

3. "What are the most common accidental causes of the disease, and what are the circumstances which tend to propagate it more in one country than in another?

4. "What is the relative mortality of the disease?

5. "What treatment is the best suited in England? Is it better to begin by emptying the vessels, before we apply any other remedies?

6. "Is there any specific treatment for the disease? Is the volatile alkali taken inwardly and applied outwardly of any use? and in that case which of the two modes precedes the other? Is there any well authenticated cases that tend to prove that the alkaline treatment cures the disease?

7. "Are there any particular publications on the subject of the croup besides Home and Cleghorn?"

Although the croup, *angina stridula*, or *cynanche trachealis* of Cullen, appears under peculiar and pathognomonic symptoms, totally distinct from those of spasmodic croup, spasmodic asthma of children, *angina polyposa*, or any other species of *angina*, it has been sometimes confounded with these, and given rise to modes of treatment which, at the present period of experience, will be inadmissible; for, either from the greater frequency of the disease, and the great attention which it has excited, aided by the additional means of ascertaining the seat of it by dissection, or its nature by the improved knowledge in animal chemistry, it is now as well ascertained as most other diseases to which the human frame is liable.

Although the anginal stridula may make its onset without that exudation in the throat, in general pathognomonic of the disease, it mostly

appears in its progress, unless the attack be unusually mild, or where the very early application of remedies may have arrested this symptom of the disease. This exudation consists of a membranous substance, not only lining the trachea above its divarication, but also its branches. It is not the mucus of the bronchial glands, but the coagulable gluten, or fibrin of the blood, concreting into a fibrous or membranous substance peculiar to this disease.

Agreeably to the request of the Professor, I shall advert to his respective questions.

1. The croup is a disease which has long prevailed in the northern parts of Great Britain, and also on the sea-coasts of many of the southern counties; but, until the last 15 or 20 years, has been scarcely known in the metropolis or its vicinity. Since the period mentioned, it has been very frequently observed in certain situations, and may be considered epidemical. It has even been suggested as probably to be contagious *, but a more

* This has been suggested by my ingenious friend Mr. Field, whose essay on this disease, published in the Memoirs of the Medical Society, justly acquired him the honorary medal. I think, however, that it cannot, from the cases I have seen or heard of, be considered otherwise than as merely epidemic. During the writing of this essay, some facts have occurred, which appear to favour this conclusion. Three children resided in the same village, two of these were brothers, who lived together, the third had not the least communication; one of the brothers and this child took the disease about the same time, and it proved fatal to both; but the surviving brother had not the least affection, although the intercourse was not interrupted.

enlarged experience is requisite, before this point can be satisfactorily ascertained.

It does not necessarily follow that the croup is a modern disease, because it has only of late been distinctly noticed as such. It may have long existed, and been confounded with other species of tracheal or bronchial affections, and also with the hooping cough. Such probably was formerly the case with *hydrocephalus internus*, the fatality of which has been often considered as the consequence of dentition only; and many examples of a similar nature might, without difficulty, be adduced.

2. Although it has frequently occurred on the sea-coasts of many southern counties, as has been observed, yet in the northern parts of Great Britain it seems to have been more frequent.

3. The disease occurs in all seasons of the year, but it is more to be apprehended in the winter than in the summer, and particularly under the prevalence of moisture and cold, when a catarrhal diathesis may be supposed to prevail. It has been observed that subjects who have once had the disease, are liable to a repetition of it at a future period under the circumstance of exposure to cold and moisture, but it does not then terminate fatally, and appears to partake more of the spasmodic than of the inflammatory tendency.

4. The croup has long been considered as a disease very generally terminating fatally. If the active method of treatment hereafter recommended be early employed, prior to the formation of the

fibrous membrane, the disease is mostly curable; but never, after this formation, in any instance that has come under my attention.

5. This interesting question as to the best mode of treating this dangerous disease, might be elucidated by stating the opinions of those practitioners who have paid particular attention to it; and the success with which their practice has been attended.

Mr. Field, who early wrote upon this disease, and whose subsequent experience has confirmed him in his mode of treating it, has obligingly communicated to me some observations, of which I shall avail myself in his own words, and conclude with a few remarks which my own experience has afforded.

"Christ's Hospital is considered to be the largest foundation school in Europe; there are upwards of 1100 children supported and educated in it. Between six and seven hundred of these are maintained in London. Since I have been intrusted with the medical care of this house, which is not quite a year, seven cases of croup have occurred. Four of them were original diseases, and happening within the same week. The remaining three cases were consequent upon the measles.

"The subjects of the first four cases were boys between 8 and 12 years of age. The disease occurred in the early part of March 1807; the weather was then very cold, and coughs were extremely prevalent in the school. The symptoms

were at first severe, but medical assistance being had recourse to in the very earliest stage of the disease, they were soon alleviated, and they all happily recovered.

"In the months of August and September, the measles made their appearance in this school, and within the space of six weeks 37 boys underwent this disease. Many of the cases were severe, and the weather uncommonly unfavourable, being in the early part of September remarkably cold, so as to render the warmth of a fire generally agreeable.

"Three of these cases proved fatal, and all of them died with decided symptoms of tracheal inflammation, attended with every character of croup terminating in suffocation: in two of these boys, the symptoms of measles were by no means severe, and they passed through the usual stages of the disease, without any unfavourable circumstances; but in the decline of it, about the fifth day from the commencement of the eruption, the cough suddenly became shrill, and almost incessant, accompanied with difficulty of breathing, increasing hourly in its severity, and notwithstanding every effort of the medical art, death ensued within 24 hours.

"In the third case, the symptoms of measles were severe throughout all its stages, and required the use of the lancet at an early period; the patient nevertheless appeared in a favourable way until the 5th or 6th day of the disease, when the

above-mentioned appearances of croup suddenly came on, proceeded exactly in the same way, and a similar event followed.

"The method of cure which was invariably pursued, has been early and copious venesection, which, if the symptoms were not greatly mitigated, was generally repeated, or else topical bleeding by means of leeches employed. The strictest antiphlogistic regimen was adopted, the body at the same time kept perfectly soluble; blisters were generally applied as near to the seat of the disease as could conveniently be done, and remedies of the nauseating kind administered internally, which would of course occasionally act as an emetic. These were either two grains of antimonial powder every three or four hours, or from half a grain to one grain of ipecacuanha repeated as frequently.

"Owing to peculiar circumstances, I had no opportunity of examining these patients after death."

Although the croup is now decidedly identified, as has been observed, no little difference of treatment has been recommended; whilst some respectable practitioners depend upon mercurial purgatives, others are equally partial to bleeding. As this disease makes its onset with highly inflammatory symptoms, the means most powerfully calculated to subdue them, seem indicated, and venesection has been found the most active agent to produce this effect—to arrest most certainly the formation of fibrin in the cavity of the trachea, for

after this is completely formed, the event, as before remarked, is almost invariably fatal. It is not merely from bleeding in inflammatory diseases, that its utility may be estimated, but that the blood be drawn rapidly and copiously, approaching *deliquium*, and even children, under inflammatory affections, are capable of sustaining ample bleeding, with the effect of inducing less debility, than the continuance of the disease itself, and sometimes even of copious purging.

Although purgatives, and particularly the mercurial, are highly beneficial, mercury does not possess any specific action in the croup, as is admitted in syphilis; but from its apparent influence on the chylopoietic system, and as children bear a larger quantity than adults, it is preferable to any other evacuant in the subject of the present inquiry; but so rapid is the disease, that even this active medicine, in many instances, could not be excited to action, before the most dangerous symptoms would be decidedly formed, when even venesection and mercury would be equally useless. From every view therefore of the rapid progress of this inflammatory disease, and the necessity of exerting every means to arrest the exudation and formation of fibrin, venesection should be instantly adopted, and afterwards the local application of leeches, and on each side of the throat that of blisters; at the same time availing ourselves of mercurial purgatives, as recommended by Dr. Rush, Dr. Hamilton, and others.

The two following cases will further elucidate the mode of treatment I have recommended.

CASE I.

Miss Harris, in Gee street, aged six years, for whom I was consulted on the 19th of November, 1810, complained of a slight catarrhal affection three days preceding; but the symptoms were so mild as not to occasion any particular attention of the family, till three o'clock of the morning of the 19th, and my visit was at one in the afternoon, fully ten hours after the obvious occurrence of the *cynanche trachealis*. I found the pulse full 140, with a good degree of strength and hardness, the cheeks flushed, the febrile heat considerable, the stridula violent, and the breathing laborious and difficult. The bowels had been gently opened by a laxative, the child had been put into a warm bath, and a blister applied to the sternum prior to my attendance. I prescribed an emetic of one drachm of antimonial wine, which operated freely, without discharging any thing offensive or particular. Six ounces of blood were taken from the back of the hand, and five leeches applied to the throat, which acted powerfully in evacuating a considerable portion of blood.

Two grains of sub-muriate of mercury were recommended to be given every two hours.

At seven o'clock in the evening, Mr. Jackson, the apothecary, informed me that the pulse did

not much exceed 100 strokes in a minute, that the breathing was easier, and that some sleep had been enjoyed.

At eleven o'clock in the morning of the 20th, the pulse was 110, the fever moderated, and the skin moist, had short intervals of sleep, the breathing was less laborious, two of the powders had been vomited, two very dark-coloured stools had been recently passed, the blood was firm, but not buffy. The sub-muriate of mercury was continued in the dose of one grain only every three hours, lest a larger quantity might not be retained on the stomach.

As my engagements prevented my attendance in the evening, I was informed that the breathing was become more laborious, with an increase of fever, which induced me to recommend the application again of leeches to the throat.

Nov. 21. About twelve at noon I visited the patient, and found her nearly well; the alarm in the preceding evening arose from the mother's fears and misapprehension of danger; and the surgeon did not apply the leeches, but continued the *hydrarg. submurias*, which was persevered in without exciting sickness. Six loose motions had been passed, and they were described as yellow and bilious, and contained a considerable quantity of ascarides.

From the sudden relief of the croup, which succeeded venesection and the application of leeches, it may be reasonably concluded that the *hydrarg.*

submurias could not have so speedily influenced the constitution or the symptoms; of this inference, however, the reader may decide for himself, from the candid recitals of the facts before him.

CASE II.

After my second visit to the preceding Case of Miss Harris (Nov. 19th) I was hastily summoned to visit Mr. Hunt, in Barge yard, Tooley street. I attended at seven o'clock in the evening, and was informed that, on the preceding day, he was engaged in his usual employment, in such a state of health as not to occasion any attention till the evening, when he came home, under an impression of having taken cold. In the night he experienced some difficulty of breathing, and in the morning of this day, the attendance of Mr. Kent was requested. He ordered a laxative medicine which operated freely, and also occasioned vomiting. In the afternoon the difficulty of breathing had increased, and excited some alarm; and soon after five o'clock the surgeon ordered twelve ounces of blood to be drawn from the neck and back by cupping. At seven, as has been observed, I saw the patient, in the most distressing state of *stridula*, the chest and neck were thrown into a tortuous state to gain the power of breathing, or passage of air through the trachea; he was incapable of swallowing from instant dread of

suffocation; he had strength to raise himself upon his knees, and bend forwards, to endeavour to facilitate inspiration, and again suddenly to throw himself on his back, on his pillow, highly elevated. The labour and the stricture in breathing, scarcely admitted articulation; and he made hasty signs with impetuous action to convey his ideas. It was a horrible conflict betwixt life and death.

The pulse was temperate and regular.

Whilst I had retired to another chamber to prescribe, I was hastily recalled to that of the patient, on account of the increased difficulty of breathing, I now found the pulse to intermit, lose its strength, now faulter and quiver, and then the patient suddenly ceased to breathe.

He was 74 years of age, of an athletic structure, with a fine open chest, and the whole appearance of the *juvenis senectus.*

I inquired about his general state of health, and particularly respecting any gouty affection, which I was informed he had never experienced, though sometimes troubled with slight rheumatic complaints.

The weather had been for some days moist, rainy, and cold, but he had not undergone any unusual exposure, nor could any cause be assigned for the production of this sudden and fatal malady.

I regret to add, that upon application, examination of the body was not permitted.

Jan. 1, 1811.

ART. II.

ON CYNANCHE TRACHEALIS.

Miss Chapman, of Dalby Terrace, City road, four years old, had a slight catarrhal affection at the commencement of December 1811. On the third of the month, the stridula of the *cynanche trachealis* alarmed Mr. Edwards, the family apothecary, which induced him to request the immediate attendance of a physician. I arrived at four in the afternoon, and six leeches were instantly applied to the inferior part of the throat. Internally, active cathartics were given.

On the subsequent day I learnt that the leeches had withdrawn a very considerable and unexpected quantity of blood; and that the stridula was considerably abated; but to my surprize, although two grains of sub-muriate of mercury, with six of jalap, were given every two hours, no discharge had been the result by the bowels, which, however, was now effected by the aid of an enema.

On the next day the stridula had nearly ceased, and the patient continued daily to improve in health.

REMARKS.

Bleeding.—There can be no doubt of the benefit that resulted from the bleeding, which, probably by subduing the inflammation, prevented the formation of the fibrin on the delicate laryngeal membrane; for it is rarely, if ever found, that after the exudation of coagulable lymph on the trachea, any relief can be afforded.

Dr. Anderson appears to depend almost solely on the effects of mercurial purgatives in this disease; but in the present instance no effect of this kind was produced, till after the violence of the disease had been in great measure subdued: that purgatives are adviseable and highly important admits of no doubt, and have been so acknowledged by the best writers on the disease; but Dr. Anderson more particularly rests upon calomel, as the peculiarly salutary medium of purging, and suggests that the loss of blood may be injurious, from the consequent debility; but the inflammatory action excited, and the spasmodic symptoms appear to constitute the sources of debility and fatality; that bleeding even by leeches may be extended to injurious excess has certainly occurred, in consequence of the impracticability of stopping the effusion of blood; the leeches having been applied immediately over the larynx, where the pressure necessary to stop the bleeding, so greatly impeded respiration, as to threaten instant suffoca-

tion, and the excess of the evacuation appeared to have shortened existence; it is hence advisable as a precautionary practice, to apply the leeches on the side of the neck, or below the larynx, so that pressure, if necessary, may not impede the respiration. There never perhaps was a decided case of *cynanche trachealis* cured without bleeding; certainly, however, it has yielded to bleeding where no purgative effect has been produced; though such a powerful assistant should never be neglected. As leeches are often procured with difficulty, and even when procured do not always perform their office; and as the laryngeal veins evacuate their blood into the external jugulars, these should be opened; the effect of which would be more decisively useful, from the rapidity of the discharge, independently of the quantity; hence also the application of the cupping glass would, in some instances, be preferable to that of leeches.

Vomiting.—It is a common practice, upon the instant of ascertaining the disease under discussion, to administer vomits; but as the prominent object is to remove the inflammation of the laryngeal membrane, and prevent the formation of fibrin, I did not deem it prudent to excite any agitation of this kind, lest it might have kept up the inflammatory action of this delicate membrane. The practice probably has arisen from a supposition that the action of vomiting might detach the coagulable lymph from the membrane, and thus promote the cure; but in this point of view, it would

be useless, as no cure has, I presume, been hitherto effected, after this coagulable substance had been formed; and prior to its formation, every probable cause of inflammation should be studiously avoided. I confess, that a youth of six years of age, whom I once attended, expectorated so much of sloughy coagulable substance, as induced me, after copious bleeding, to prescribe emetics, in the expectation of dislodging the whole. Vain, however, was the hope; for after death, on inspecting the trachea, this substance, which lined the passage like a complete tube, was in many portions loose and detached, but under them fresh fibrin was formed, and the membrane of the larynx thereby thickened. After bleeding and purging, should the inflammation of the laryngeal membrane be thereby arrested, and the crouping diminished, a gentle emetic may be salutary in removing the sordes of the stomach, and the mucus near the glottis.

Purgatives.—The utility of these are so universally admitted, that it is not requisite, at this period of practical knowledge, to doubt their efficacy in this disease; but I hesitate in believing them paramount to bleeding; though certainly, as has been remarked, they should never be omitted. In the present case, although purging was not early effected, it was powerfully attempted, the failure of which might be owing to some peculiarity of the patient's constitution, or some mistake in administering the medicine. Whether or not calomel be superior to any other purgative I cannot deter-

mine; but as it is not inferior to any other, it ought to be employed, from the recommendation it has acquired. I imagine however that it has no specific effect as a mercurial or deobstruent; for after the *stridula* decides the nature of the disease, it is seldom more than 36 hours, often within 12, that the fibrin is formed; in which short period it can scarcely be supposed to exert any other salutary power than as a purgative; and even in this view it requires jalap, or some other stimulant, to excite it to quicker action on the mucous stomach and bowels of children.

Blistering.—This is another evacuant usually employed in this disease, by applying the vesicatory on the throat immediately over the part affected; and the same doubt of its utility, that pressed upon my mind respecting emetics, may be admitted here. I am sensible that the supposition of exciting one inflammatory action to lessen another in its vicinity, as a blister on the side in *pleuritis* or *hepatitis*, may be feasible. I doubt, however, the propriety of this practice so near to the tender membrane of the larynx, when under the action of inflammation. A circumstance has often arrested my attention respecting the metastasis of violent and dangerous diseases: nature, to use familiar language, often relieves itself in its crises, by producing a morbid action at an unexpected distance from the primary disease, and effects its cure by a metastasis inexplicable from the present state of knowledge of the *vires medicatrices naturæ*. After

bleeding and purging in this disease, thereby lessening the inflammatory action of the system, a blister may be early applied, but not nearer to the seat of *cynanche*, than the nape of the neck, or upper part of the sternum.

Warm-bathing.—This has been a general remedy, and after bleeding and purging, may be also early admitted, not exceeding 96 degrees of warmth, lest it excite quickness of pulse and inflammatory action; and hence, till the febrile disposition be, in great measure, subdued, its beneficial effects may be suspected, unless indeed at a degree of heat not exceeding that of the blood.

April 13, 1812.

ART. III.

CASE OF HYDROPHOBIA.

Mr. Cownden, of Great Hermitage-street, about 45 years of age, was bitten by his domestic cat, on the 16th of July, 1812. He imagined that the animal was about to kitten in a part of his house which he thought unsuitable; and, on his attempting to remove it, seemed to irritate it, and occasion it to scratch and bite his fingers and right hand so severely, as to engage the attention of Mr. Pearce, his surgeon, till the end of the month, before the parts completely healed. Very soon after this incident the cat disappeared, and was not afterwards seen by the family. Mr. Cownden expressed some uneasiness lest the cat should have been mad, as it had hitherto been docile and familiar, and as he had heard that it had also bitten a dog, which had since disappeared; but the circumstance of subsequent disease was not ascertained. After the wounds had been healed, his mind became tranquil, and he continued to conduct his affairs as in his usual health.

On the 23d of September he complained of in-

disposition, and particularly of a pain, not in the fingers or hand bitten, but along the arm, extending to the shoulder, and more severely felt in the right scapula, which he considered as a rheumatic affection, and for which a blister was applied upon the back. On the 25th the pain increased; and about three o'clock in the afternoon it was observed that he was greatly agitated on attempting to swallow fluids, with spasmodic affections of the lips and fauces, which induced the surgeon to request my attendance, and I saw the patient about ten o'clock in the evening of the same day, the 25th. He was sitting in his chair, and when I inquired into the symptoms of his indisposition, he described them as rheumatic; and after some pause, acquainted me with the circumstance of the cat having bitten him, and afterwards a dog; and he added, that these animals had not since been heard of; but this narrative was not accompanied with any suspicion or fear respecting the effects of the bite; and he recurred to the complaint of rheumatic pains of the right arm and shoulder. He laboured at this time under a difficulty in uttering his words, from the spasmodic affection of the lips, fauces, and even of the neck: this hesitation and difficulty increased on beginning a sentence, similar to stammering, accompanied with a guttural or hoarse articulation, approaching to that of the croup.

He informed me of the difficulty he had in swallowing fluids; but on my requesting him to drink,

he acquiesced immediately, took up the tumbler which had been placed on the table before him, applied it to his mouth hastily, and gulped a quantity of the fluid, which was immediately succeeded by more severe convulsive motions of the fauces and throat, and considerable agitations of the whole body; but to enable him to swallow the fluid, he pressed his left hand upon his mouth, and, with a forcible exertion, swallowed the liquid: after this process, the convulsive motions subsided to their former degree. After some pause, upon requesting him again to drink, he immediately acquiesced, and similar effects followed the attempt.

I ordered another tumbler, without any fluid in it, to be presented to him, and desired him to apply it to his mouth, as in the act of drinking out of it, which he did without any increased emotion; nor did the sight of a looking-glass, nor the pouring out of liquids from one vessel into another, nor opening the chamber door to agitate the air, excite any obvious influence.

The pulse, I imagined, to beat in its ordinary state. The vision was perfect; the pupils appeared to me somewhat dilated, but the natural size of these varies so considerably in different persons, as to leave it undetermined.

The intellectual powers were not impaired; he spoke, as far as the convulsive actions would admit of articulation, with clearness and precision. He

expressed no fear of injuring those about him, as is frequently the case with hydrophobic patients.

After this visit, I had no access to him, but I was informed, that the spasmodic and convulsive actions increased and extended, with total aphonia; but by means of signs, he exhibited the full possession of his mental functions, till seven o'clock in the morning of the 26th, when, in a violent convulsion, he expired; being a period of nine hours after my visit; and hence affording no means of ascertaining the effect of the plan I had in view, that of exhibiting opium freely, and of anointing the body with the *linimentum hydrargyri compositum: viz.*

Take of

Strong Mercurial Ointment.
Prepared Lard, of each, one pound.
Camphor, two drachms.
Rectified Spirit, five drops, to the Camphor.
Solution of Ammonia, one ounce. Mix.

Nevertheless, I did not expect success from this or any other mode of treatment hitherto suggested, after the commencement of the diagnostic symptoms of hydrophobia.

ART. IV.

SECOND CASE OF HYDROPHOBIA.

John Whittenbury, 50 years of age, well made, and of robust frame, was in his usual good health, till the night of the 28th of June, 1813, which he passed in a restless manner, and on the forenoon of the 29th, felt rather oppression than pain of the chest, gradually arising to occasional spasmodic stricture, and producing a sense of suffocation, especially on taking any fluid. The night was passed with great restlessness, and on the morning of the 30th he was much agitated. On attempting to drink he was considerably convulsed. At this time Mr. Read, a judicious practitioner, visited him; and then, by earnest perseverance, though attended with much difficulty on the part of the patient, got him to swallow a spoonful of castor oil.

At seven in the afternoon I visited him, with Mr. Read; I found him recumbent in bed, tranquil and sensible, of which Mr. Read had apprized me; but added that a dread of taking any fluid had excited his suspicion of hydrophobia. I earnestly intreated the patient to afford me every

possible information respecting the cause of his indisposition; and particularly if he could recollect that any dog, or other animal, had bitten or injured him. He assured me that not the least suspicion of any such circumstance had occurred to him, and his wife added that neither dog nor cat had shewn the most distant hostility to any part of the family. When I further urged him to assign any cause, that he might suspect could possibly occasion his indisposition, he principally ascribed it to a violent fit of passion which he fell into on the morning of the 28th.

I requested him to drink a fluid which was offered to him in a glass, to effect which he rose from his recumbent position, and firmly sat up in bed; but the moment the glass was offered to him, he started back in the most agitated manner, and threw himself nearly out of bed, with convulsive distortion of the muscles of the face, exclaiming that it would kill him to attempt to swallow. This experiment was tried again and again, and with the same results. The fauces were more and more distorted, his eyes were glaring, and horror was depicted in every feature.

He observed that he had violently exerted himself to swallow the castor oil in the morning, since which he added that he had become worse, in consequence of the effort he had made to accomplish it.

He could attentively look at a glass of water, at the distance of one yard from him, without

emotion, but its nearer approach agitated him; and the bare mention of drinking, instantly threw him into agitation. His house was situated on the border of the Thames, which he viewed from his bed, and conversed about it, without emotion; nor did the approach of a looking glass occasion any excitement. The day was perfectly calm, the air moderately warm, and the windows and door were open, from which he felt no inconvenience; but the least casual breathing on his face, or slightly fanning the air, excited spasmodic agitations, and horrible sensations. I happened, as I sat near him, to use my pocket handkerchief, the motion of which threw him into agony, and convulsive agitations. I ordered 20 ounces of blood to be immediately taken from the arm, to which he readily consented, but whilst placing a napkin upon the bed, in the gentlest manner, slight as was the motion of the air it occasioned, he fell into similar convulsive agitations, as those resulting from the motion of the handkerchief.

The pupils of the eyes appeared to me in a natural state, and vision was perfect. When unmolested, and left in a quiet state, he expressed no uneasiness, except stricture or tightness in breathing, with a feeling of suffocation. Now and then a slight hiccupping occurred. The pulse did not exceed 60 strokes in a minute; not strong, and occasionally intermitting. It became weaker after venesection, somewhat quicker, and more inter-

mitting; but in about half an hour afterwards he thought himself easier.

A little before he was bled, he was pressingly desired to swallow a small portion of bread moistened with water, which, after severe struggles, he effected; but he could not be persuaded to renew the attempt after bleeding, in consequence of the agitation and horror excited by the first attempt. Before and after venesection, he washed his hands and face with very little agitation; but the circumstance of washing his face produced more excitement than the same process to the hands.

He was ordered two grains of calomel, and as much opium, every hour; and to be rubbed externally with camphor and opium dissolved in the oil of almonds.

Although I left my patient, without being enabled to trace any adequate cause of his indisposition, I had not the least doubt of the disease being hydrophobia; and requested Mr. Read to renew his inquiries, to discover, if possible, the cause of symptoms so indubitably hydrophobic, which long and repeated experience authorized me to conclude.

After waiting a few days without receiving any information respecting the patient, I wrote to Mr. Read to request it, who politely favoured me with the following letter:

DEAR SIR, *Limehouse, July* 6, 1813.

In answer to your inquiries respecting our patient, John Whittenbury, the event has been, as we naturally expected, fatal. He died on Thursday afternoon at four o'clock; so that from the first appearance of the hydrophobic symptom, he only lived about 51 hours. He began to complain of a difficulty of swallowing on Tuesday at noon, but did get down a little broth with great exertion, which caused him to vomit a little. In the evening, the objection to fluids increased to such a degree that they sent for me. Mr. Burn, my partner, went down, and found him without fever or derangement, his pulse calm and regular, but with a foul white tongue; and the sight of water, or any other fluid, threw him into as great an agitation as when you saw him, and the least breath of air produced the same effect. He ordered him some pills with calomel, and a small mixture. In the morning, when Mr. Burn saw him, he found he had taken the pills and a small quantity of the mixture, but no other fluid whatever. You saw the state he was in on Wednesday; of the pills you ordered, he only took one, and the liniment he could not bear, on account of the smell of the camphor; he could not bear even the name of water, or suffer the air to blow upon him; of even a few currants he wished for, he could only swallow three or four, and which occasioned the same dreadful agonies as water. Early on Thursday morning Mr. Burn again saw him, and found him in a dreadful state; the pulse fluttering

and very irregular; the very idea of water produced the most dreadful agonies; air the same; but never wavering in his discourse, or the least appearance of derangement: he had not swallowed a drop of any fluid since you saw him. About nine o'clock he sent for an emetic; I sent him four grains of tartar emetic, which he with great difficulty got down in a tea-spoon-full of barley-water; and to assist its operation, such was his resolution, that although every effort occasioned the greatest tortures, he actually swallowed nearly a quart of it; and the emetic operated copiously four or five times; and he sweated so profusely from the exertion, that his linen was obliged to be changed. I saw him at eleven o'clock; staid two hours; and requested him to take a glass of wine to calm his stomach after the emetic, which he did with great difficulty: he began to bear the air better; water seemed less to affect him; the pulse, the whole time, was perfectly calm and steady. He being of an extreme irritable temper, and his wife, by some means, having caused him a violent fit of passion two or three days before, the sight of her produced the same effect as water; but he grew reconciled to her; told her she was the occasion of all his sufferings, and, if he recovered, begged of her not to vex him so in future, as she then saw the ill effects of it. He conversed with me with the greatest composure; told me the bleeding relieved his throat and chest, and if he were not so weak, and in such a perspiration, he should wish to

be bled again. He inquired if I thought he might recover, as he could not trace any cause from bite; but recollected, afterwards, being bit through the finger about fourteen months ago, by what *he* called a *giddy pig*, as he was putting a ring in the nose; but he fatted and killed it; so he could not suppose there could be any infection from that cause, although, it appears, there was a dog in the neighbourhood, supposed to be mad, about that time, which bit two or three people, and some dogs and pigs, but not any of his pigs, that he knew of, and no ill consequences followed. Before I left him he made his will, and requested I would see him every day; I promised to see him at six in the evening. About four o'clock Mr. Burn went down; was told, that since I had left him, all the symptoms had returned with their usual violence; but he was then, as they supposed, just dosing; went to look at him, and found him dead in his wife's arms.

Query.—Could a violent fit of passion, in an extremely irritable mind, produce the disease? or a bite from an animal, supposed only to be *giddy*, received so many months back?

If, Sir, you should wish any farther information on the subject, it will be readily communicated by

Sir,

Your most obedient humble Servant,

William Read.

P. S. It may be necessary to mention, that the tongue continued white and foul till his death.

CONCLUSION.

Frequent as canine madness occurs, no sufficient data have yet ascertained its primary cause or origin; or, by what medium the infection is maintained and preserved. Some have suggested, that it arises spontaneously in certain animals, from violent or infuriate anger, exciting madness, or that condition of the system, and morbid secretion, which, conveyed through the cutis by the teeth, or by any other medium, proves a source of infection to the bitten animal, producing hydrophobia, and eventually death.

Were irritation and anger alone capable of generating hydrophobia, it might be concluded, that many more instances of it would have occurred, than experience affords; and certain it is, that animals will exhibit irritation and infuriate wildness, without acquiring, and, consequently, propagating this disease.

In this month (Oct. 1813), a cat, in the possession of Mrs. Newman, of Snow-hill, was suddenly seized with a wildness and fury that resembled madness: in this state it flew about the room, and at length fixed its talons and teeth into the arm of a female, a stranger to the family, but then sitting quietly at the table. Application was immediately made to Mr. Andree, at midnight, who, after some hesitation, and weighing every circumstance, did not think himself warranted immediately to cut out the bitten parts, but concluded to visit the patient

in the morning. The cat was then calm, took its food as usual, purred on being noticed, and shewed its customary affections. It might, however, have been noticed, that she had been teized and tormented by the children of the family, an hour or two previous to the violence inflicted upon the object of her anger.

If the agitation, anger, and fury of man were capable of generating in the individual the disease of hydrophobia, it would be, what it happily is not, a very frequent occurrence: hence there must be some other exciting causes to produce it; and hitherto none has been ascertained, but the bite of a rabid animal. From hasty reflection it might appear probable, that a morbid dog would propagate the disease more generally than experience affords; but a mad animal is generally avoided by its own species. The infected dog usually moves in a straight direction, his head bent almost to the earth, and rarely turns aside to bite, unless pursued and angered.

Under an opinion that hydrophobia can be produced only by canine or similar infection, Dr. Bardsley proposed, that every dog in the kingdom should, at the same time, be subjected to a quarantine of two months, as a dog never survives, after receiving infection, for a longer period; and that the *fomes* hence ceasing to exist, the disease could not again appear, unless introduced by some animal not having undergone this moderate quarantine. The late Mr. Meynell, so famous for the kennel

of dogs he possessed, never admitted a fresh one into his pack till it had gone through this process; and, during his long life, with the most numerous pack in the kingdom, he never had the misfortune to have a mad dog in his kennel.

As hydrophobia in man proves generally (if not invariably) fatal, many remedies have been suggested without success, and none more frequently tried, than local and general bleeding to a great extent; lately, however, copious venesection has been tried, and said to have been successful; and although former experience might lessen confidence, irremediable as the disease has hitherto proved, it would encourage a trial of whatever would afford even plausibility of relief; and I regret that in the present instance of hydrophobia, bleeding had not been pursued to a greater extent; more especially as it was intimated, that some transient benefit had been experienced by a solitary extraction of only twenty ounces of blood. Almost forlorn as the hope is, were a similar case of hydrophobia to come again under my direction, I would recommend venesection to the utmost powers of the vital strength; and externally apply, from head to foot, the friction of sweet oil, united with such a quantity of mercurial ointment as might be likely speedily to act upon the constitution.

I am aware that depletion by bleeding, and at the same time applying mercury, which is a stimulus, may appear inconsistent; yet as practitioners

have availed themselves successfully of these remedies, in a very highly inflammatory disease, the *cynanche trachealis*, I introduce them, as the least objectionable remedies in my recollection, or that possess any claim to success in the hydrophobia. As an individual I place no confidence in either, but mention them from the recommendation they have acquired, or from our ignorance of any means more likely to afford relief.

Prior to the commencement of hydrophobia, the only safe appeal, or preventive of the disease, is to cut out the bitten parts, or completely to destroy them by lunar caustic, the concentrated mineral acids, or actual cautery.

It has been suggested by some respectable surgeons, from experience, that cutting out, or destroying the bitten or wounded part, even some weeks after the accident, will prevent hydrophobia; and the suggestion of security from it has been extended to any period, prior to its actual appearance: procrastination, however, should never be admitted, as the disease may arise in one person earlier than in another, either from the virulence of the poison inserted, or the quantity; or from some peculiarity of the individual who receives it. It is well known, that many patients have been bitten or wounded by animals, really, or supposed to be, rabid, without incurring disease. This may depend probably from the circumstance of the poison having been intercepted or rubbed off by the intervening clothing, through which the tooth has

passed; and hence less dependence can be placed upon a practice, not fully established by indubitable facts. The following cases, however, communicated by Mr. Saumarez, are so decisive as greatly to corroborate the opinions I have alluded to of security from *post-mortal* excision. A grand-mother, mother, and three children had been bitten or wounded by a mad-dog: the children received the bite whilst in bed, and openly exposed, and consequently without any portion of garment intervening, to rub off, or weaken the virulence of the saliva or poison. Rather more than five weeks afterwards, the grand-mother was seized with hydrophobia, and died; in consequence of which all the others submitted to have the bitten parts cut out; the parts wounded still retaining marks sufficiently obvious to direct Mr. Saumarez in his operations; and no disease has occurred to the four survivors, during the space of two years.

About four years since, a youth, twelve years old, the son of Mr. Paynter, of Coleman-street, was bitten by a rabid dog, on the right cheek, a little below the eye. Within the space of 36 hours, the wounded part was neatly cut out by Mr. Vaux, senior surgeon of the General Dispensary, and no disease has since occurred.

Oct. 28, 1813.

ART. V.

CASE OF INFLAMED BLOOD-VESSELS OF THE ABDOMINAL MUSCLES.

Professors of Medicine, of long and extensive practice, have experienced the difficulty of ascertaining, in many diseases, the causes which have appeared, by dissection, to have occasioned the death of the patient. Dissections, indeed, in many instances recorded by authors of eminence, authorize this observation, and hence afford ample inducement to avail ourselves, as often as surviving friends will permit, of this ultimate criterion of cause and effect, as the following history exemplifies.

E. Clarke, of Tooley street, Borough, about 46 years of age, had lived freely in the earlier period of manhood, indulging in the too frequent use of spirits; of late years, however, he had been an industrious, temperate man, and had enjoyed good health.

About the beginning of November 1806, he first complained of indisposition, without confining himself to the house; he had some head-ache, which was mitigated by a nasal hemorrhage; this

was succeeded by violent and long-continued retching, without vomiting any particular morbid fluid; but there ensued a considerable discharge of blood by the rectum; and, according to the information of his wife, with grumous dark-coloured matter, which, from the description, resembled that usually observed in hæmatemesis. Mr. Leadam, who attended the patient, never saw this species of discharge, but observed not less than a quart of venous blood, which had been evacuated in one day. By the exhibition of an acidulated infusion of red roses, occasionally combined with opiates, and *magnesia vitriolata*, the hemorrhage was removed, and proper fæces succeeded. The relief, however, seldom continued more than three or four days, without a return of the hemorrhage. In this manner subsequent relapses intervened, and gradually reduced the patient to the necessity of total confinement to bed.

Early in December I first visited him, and had an opportunity of observing a discharge of about four ounces of blood, without fæces. The pulse was slow and weak, with a listlessness in the patient, bordering upon stupor. This rendered him less clear in explaining his sufferings; but almost from the beginning, he referred to the left epigastric region, as the principal seat of pain, which was sore on pressure. As the treatment of the patient which had been adopted appeared to me judicious, a similar one was recommended, with the farinaceous drinks acidulated with tamarinds,

for nourishment; sometimes intervening, beef, mutton, or chicken teas. I had been informed that grumous dark coloured blood had been again evacuated, but on my second visit, the discharge was feculent, and of a natural appearance. About the fifth day from my first attendance, the patient died, and permission was granted to open the body.

From a review of the symptoms, I certainly anticipated the presence of more or less blood in the intestinal canal, as well as a morbid state of the stomach and liver. On dissection, all these viscera, with the kidneys and bladder, were found in a good degree of healthy appearance; there were indeed some livid spots on the surface of the liver, but they were merely superficial; the spleen was the only part affected, being in a scirrhous state; even the rectum afforded no other deviation from health, than several piles; but there was not any blood lodged in the cavity of this intestine. It was observable, however, that on first cutting through the abdominal integuments, and throwing them back, so as to admit a view of the intestines, and the internal surface of the peritoneum, there appeared a flame-coloured inflammation of the blood-vessels of the abdominal muscles, to the extent of the size of a hand, on each side of the umbilicus, without any inflammation of the peritoneal surface itself. This continued sheet of inflammation presented the idea of contusion from a violent blow, that had bruised and destroyed the blood-

vessels; there was no extravasation of blood into the cellular membrane on one side, nor into the peritoneum on the other. Such an appearance of these vessels had never occurred to that expert anatomist, Astley Cooper, esq., who opened the body of the deceased; but neither blow nor contusion was ever mentioned by the patient, or suspected by the wife; although it may be inferred that this morbid state of these vessels occasioned the fatal event.

It may be recalled to mind, that at the commencement of the disease a severe retching had taken place. Was this the cause or the effect of the inflammation? As no other part of the body presented the appearance of serious mischief, it may, I think, be inferred, that the violent retching produced the inflammation and rupture of the blood-vessels, and that their disorganized state, with the consequent pain, destroyed life. Dissection, however, did not ascertain whence the hemorrhage of blood was derived. The intestinal tube and stomach, as remarked, were not diseased, except the rectum might be so considered from the presence of piles. In this intestine there was neither blood nor grumous matter at the time of dissection, nevertheless it seems most probable that the bloody discharge must have been occasionally poured out from the hemorrhoidal vessels. Under any doubtful circumstances of disease, where the event has been fatal, it is natural to query whether any additional means of relief could have been sug-

gested? Perhaps the application of leeches to the abdomen, and a vesicatory, might have occurred in practice; but the degree of weakness, and state of the inflammation, would seem to preclude any rational hope of success from these auxiliaries.

January 4, 1807.

ART. VI.

CASE OF DIABETES.

I was requested to attend J. Moore, of St. Mary at Hill, aged about 35 years; accordingly, on the 18th of November, 1810, I went, accompanied by Mr. Pugh, of Gracechurch-street, and received the following information respecting the patient.

About April of this year, he experienced a gradual diminution of strength, with increasing thirst, and discharge of urine; but it was not till May that he sought medical advice, when the malady was clearly ascertained. Impatient under a disease which is usually incurable, he became dissatisfied, and hoping for relief he solicited the aid of one respectable physician after another, but with successive disappointment, though under varied modes of treatment, and from the history of them, each had been continued for a sufficient length of time to demonstrate their inefficacy.

The first plan which was adopted and pursued, was that of animal diet, as recommended by Dr. Rollo: to this succeeded the system of copious venesection, as instituted by Dr. Watt.

On my first visit, I noticed a considerable fulness and strength in the pulse, beating 110 strokes in a minute: the skin was hot and dry, with a yel-

lowish furred tongue, and an insatiable thirst, to quench which, he did not usually drink less than four gallons of porter a day, and this constituted almost his sole nutriment; solids he could not take, and other fluids were ejected. He was hasty in expressing his feelings, defective in recollection, and often incoherent. His nights were restless, frequently, on a sudden, rising in bed, and demanding porter to gratify his thirst. The quantity of fermented liquor, probably, increased the action of the pulse, as well as the feverish heat. His urine was limpid, and said to be discharged to the quantity of at least two gallons in 24 hours; it emitted a sweetish faint scent, though in a less sensible degree than I have usually observed in the *diabetes mellitus*. I intended to have instituted some experiments on this fluid, but it was usually removed prior to my visits, and his unexpected recovery at length prevented the execution of my design. It was remarked, that he had lost very little flesh during the disease, though now become so exhausted in strength, as to preclude ability to walk, or even to support himself to stand, and to induce him to confine himself to bed. He kept a coffee-house, and had occasionally indulged in drinking mixed or spirituous liquors. There did not, however, appear to exist any hepatic affections.

After contemplating the variety of important remedies, which had been exhibited without any salutary effect, I was induced to try a medicine he had not hitherto taken; and I prescribed a draught,

with half a drachm of the tincture of cantharides, three times a day; and directed that the dose should be gradually increased, till some sensible effect should be excited. Under this plan he proceeded till the 24th of this month, with very little alteration of any of the symptoms, except in some change in the quantity of urine, which was diminished, and in the colour, which had acquired a light amber; the thirst also was less insatiable. On this day, the 24th, (the dose of the tincture of cantharides amounting to four drachms in 24 hours,) there came on a very severe and serious attack of strangury, accompanied with constipation of the intestines, and considerable fever. He was now totally deranged in intellect; greatly agitated in body, with a tremor in both arms and hands, like the shaking palsy. With extreme difficulty, the bowels were copiously relieved; and at bed-time an opiate of 40 drops of *Tinct. Opii* was taken. On the 25th he had such intervals of sound intellect as to make his will. On the 26th and 27th, although the trembling of the upper limbs had nearly subsided, the derangement of mind returned; but on the 28th he became calm, and scarcely any alarming symptoms remained. For the first time his tongue was moist, and the fever had subsided; the pulse was weak and regular; the intellect clear; the urine amber-coloured, and moderate in quantity. The insatiable thirst, and impetuous earnestness for porter, ceased; and, for the first time during many weeks' illness, he solicited for, and retained, broths, and farinaceous fluids, with red port.

At the commencement of December he was able to walk from his bed; on the 4th, I found him in the sitting-room with his family in social conversation, and able to walk about the house. He had kept an account of the quantities and qualities of nourishment he had taken in the last two days, with the proportion of urine discharged, which I copy from his own memoranda:

Dec. 2. 1 quart of wine whey.
1 ditto of soup.
1 pint of jelly.
1 pint of milk.
3 quarts of wine and water.
Total, $6\frac{1}{2}$ quarts taken. Of urine,
6 quarts discharged.

3. 1 quart of ale.
1 ditto of wine whey.
1 ditto of broth.
$3\frac{1}{2}$ ditto of wine and water.
Total, $6\frac{1}{2}$ quarts taken. Of urine,
6 quarts discharged.

Dec. 9. The patient appeared in a state of health. He had been able to take a walk round Tower-hill. The quantity of fluids taken in was the same as above stated: $6\frac{1}{2}$ quarts a day, and the urine discharged five quarts. It was pale, and of a sweet smell, without any sediment.

Feb. 3, 1811.

ART. VII.

CASE OF ANGINA PECTORIS, JOINED WITH OTHER MORBID AFFECTIONS.

On the 12th of August, 1809, I visited T. Soloway, aged 64, of athletic form and vigour, and who was represented as having drank freely. I learnt that he first felt indisposed about six years ago, with difficulty of breathing, especially on attempting to move, and that in an aggravated manner on rising any ascent. About three years afterwards he was more seriously indisposed, with increased *dyspnœa*, accompanied by considerable pain on the left side of the thorax; when he consulted an able physician, who considered his complaint to be the *hydrops pectoris*, and which was rendered more probable, from the anasarcous state of the legs and hands. He so far recovered, as to be able to go abroad, but he was never exonerated from the shortness of breath on using exercise: this difficulty again increased about the commencement of this year, and the aid of the same physician was requested, but without similar relief; and the health of the physician requiring retirement, he had the advice of another respectable one.

On the present onset he took mercury with squills, digitalis, and other diuretics, which on the first attack had afforded benefit. To allay the acute pains in the thorax, and violent restlessness and agitation, both of mind and body, from five to ten grains of opium were daily exhibited, which afforded temporary mitigation and occasional slumbers.

At the period first mentioned, that I was consulted, misery was depicted in every feature of his countenance, and all the symptoms before noticed were highly afflicting. The agitated patient, moaning and crying out under his severe sufferings, which he described as intolerable. The pain over the whole thorax and abdomen, was augmented on external pressure, and that of the side was rendered more acute by a cough, which now became troublesome, and by fits of sneezing, which continued for nearly a quarter of an hour, two or three times a day, though sometimes ceasing for a whole day, or even two days. The pulse was generally slow and weak, and sometimes, though very rarely, intermitting. He took a little fluid nourishment, and this was frequently thrown up, with a copious discharge of yellow or green bile. He was liable to constipation, which was with difficulty overcome by active cathartics, which might be in part occasioned by the continuance of opium, which the pain rendered indispensable. The tongue was very little furred; the urine was plentiful, and of a proper colour. He was able to lie down on

either side, or on the back, though with some difficulty, on account of the breathing; his most familiar position was sitting up in bed, or in his chair, which tended to produce a degree of anasarca of the legs and thighs. About the 15th of September the vomiting ceased, and some nourishment was retained. His most favourite drink was spruce beer, of which he took several bottles a day. The pains were lessened by the opium, but he always complained when he awoke, and the difficulty of breathing excited the horror of instant suffocation, and on the 27th of the month he expired.

Besides opium, he took mercurial and effervescing medicines in different forms, and sometimes neutral salts, which were omitted from their exciting vomiting. He had blisters to the chest and side most affected, and once before I saw him he was bled, which he thought to have been injurious.

About 24 hours after his decease, his body was examined by his medical attendants, Mr. Jordan and Mr. Castle, of Bermondsey-street. On opening the thorax and abdomen there was not found any effusion of water; the intestines exhibited no morbid affection. The liver was not enlarged, but completely scirrhous, and its whole substance appeared of an ash colour. The gall bladder was somewhat enlarged, and full of bile. The spleen, though not internally diseased, adhered to the surrounding membranes. The stomach was in a

healthy state. The contents of the thorax were generally diseased. The lungs adhered to the pleura; and the whole external surface of the pericardium adhered to the surrounding membranes; these adhesions seemed to be the result of remote, not recent inflammation. There was no effusion of super-abundant moisture in the cavity of the pericardium, nor did the heart, on the first aspect, appear diseased; but, on minute examination, the coronary arteries were found to be completely ossified; and some portions of the aorta, about an inch from the heart, had the appearance of the commencement of ossification.

Reflecting on the origin, progress, and event of the disease, it is natural to query, by what means the symptoms might have been mitigated, more effectually than by those which were adopted.

From the extent of the morbid affection of organs so essential to life, as displayed by dissection, it is matter of surprize, that existence could have been so long maintained. In the present instance, there seems to have been two kinds of morbid action, mutually tending to destroy the vital functions. The general state of adhesion of the thoracic viscera, and the chronic inflammation excited into action by the catarrhal affections, were highly detrimental, as well from pain as from injury to parts so essential to existence.

In reverting to the history of *angina pectoris*, in

the fourth volume of the Memoirs of the Medical Society of London, Dr. Black, of Newry, considers the ossification of the coronary arteries as the primary cause of this disease; and his description of the case alluded to, corresponds with the present. He observes that "in none of the valves of the heart could any visible degeneracy be detected; but the two coronary arteries exhibited the most complete ossification I ever saw. From their origin through two inches of their length, they had become a complete bone." This is confirmed by recent observations of Dr. Parry. That the ossification of the coronary arteries of my patient might have gradually destroyed the powers of life, is most probable; but it is equally probable that the additional diseased state of the viscera already described, hastened the catastrophe, which no powers of medical art could prevent.

ART. VIII.

CASE OF HYDROTHORAX, WITH CERTAIN ANOMALOUS AFFECTIONS.

Dissections of morbid cases may represent them as extraordinary in appearance, and extensive in morbid affection, without affording any elucidation of their causes, or of the means of curative instruction. But even where these advantages may not result, something may be gained in ascertaining the vast efforts of certain constitutions, in the preservation of existence. As an illustration of this, the present history may not be devoid of interest.

I. Toms, aged 41, long resident in Miles' lane, Cannon street, was a well-formed middle-sized man; rather thin than full made, of amiable moral character, of sedulous industry, and undeviating temperance, exercising activity, and long enjoying health.

Early in June 1814, he first intimated that he found little or no nourishment from his food, and particularly from his breakfast. This sensation gradually increased; he grew weaker, and experienced oppression and difficulty of breathing,

with pain about the præcordia, and anterior insertion of the diaphragm, shooting laterally, and backwards, and more lancinating on the right side. These sufferings became so considerable as to induce him to seek the medical assistance of Mr. Atkinson, of Nicholas-lane, early in July, under whose attendance the means which judgment and experience suggested, were directed, but with no obvious benefit. He recommended removal into the air, but a fortnight's trial afforded no relief, and he returned to his usual residence, rather more indisposed. On the 3d of August I visited the patient with Mr. Atkinson.

Although feeble, he was able to walk about his room. In his frame he had been lately more and more extenuated, except about the præcordia, and on the right side, which were full and tense: his pulse was rapid, and had been usually so since the commencement of illness; rarely, though occasionally, intermitting; sometimes feverish, and generally labouring under some degree of difficulty of breathing, with slight cough, and a little expectoration of mucus; he could lay recumbent and low in bed; his urine was spare in quantity, and rather high-coloured; he slept tolerably well, and in general composedly; he was disposed to be costive, which was carefully obviated by mercurial or saline purgatives.

During our attendance, various remedies were given; sometimes salts, squills, or digitalis, to promote the increase of urine; as alteratives or

deobstruents, he took small doses of mercury, and the parts most prominent, hard, and pained, were rubbed with mercurial ointment, after a fomentation of poppies. Where the pain was most oppressive, either cupping or leeches were applied, and, occasionally, blisters were recommended. To relieve the difficulty of breathing, a solution of gum ammoniacum, aided by the camphor julep and æther, were administered.

The continuance and increase of disease gradually reduced the powers of life, and on the 17th of August he expired. On the 19th the body was examined, in company with Mr. Atkinson.

After laying aside the integuments of the thorax, the moment the first cartilage of a rib was divided, a large portion of water gushed forth, which, with the quantity afterwards taken out of the cavity, was supposed to exceed three quarts; indeed it was so completely filled, including the pericardium, that the action of the heart must have been in such a deluge of water, as sufficient to have occasioned, for many preceding weeks, instantaneous death.

After removing this great accumulation of water, the heart was examined, which bore no degree of analogy with the morbid state of the contents of the thorax; it might appear small, but without disease in its structure and vessels; and the same might apply to the pericardium.

In order to command a more complete view of

the thorax, after dividing the cartilages of the ribs, the sternum was thrown back, and afforded appearances of unusual morbid affection, in the contents of the thorax. The inner-surface of the sternum was studded with numerous considerable eminences, or tubercular excrescences, of a white steatomatous substance, from half an inch to an inch in diameter, and branching out, or rising to eminences, of equal magnitude, resembling so many icicles clustering over the whole surface; and on each side of the internal surface of the thorax, the same state of disease, though less general, was also presented. The like steatomatous projections, of various sizes, from that of a pea to a filbert nut, and even larger, studded the membrane of the lungs. The left lobe, in particular, which seemed nearly transmuted into this species of substance, was more shrivelled and extenuated than the other, and in a state of suppuration.

The diaphragm was somewhat thickened, firm, and hard from inflammation, but more particularly of the portion connected with that of the liver. The first external view of this viscus presented no appearance of morbid affection; but on opening it, in the right lobe, a cavity was exposed, capable of containing about six ounces of fluid. It was lined by a thick, firm membrane, and contained innumerable hydatids of various diameters, from a quarter of an inch to a full inch. Besides these hydatids, were observed some disengaged membranes, not unlike the tunic of hydatids, pressing among them.

The gall bladder, though small, contained a due portion of bile. The intestines, and other abdominal viscera, were apparently sound.

With the thorax so completely filled with fluid, its internal surface, with the lungs, so generally studded with steatomatous tumors, and the parenchyma suppurative; it afforded surprize, that the patient could possibly breathe with a considerable degree of freedom, in a recumbent position; with a pulse, though quick, rarely intermittent; and with the abdominal functions and excretions approaching their natural states. Here the heart must have exercised a wonderful agency of accommodation to have performed its functions; and not less so the lungs, to admit breathing with a degree of facility, under such general disease; and the liver performing its secretions, whilst its substance afforded an asylum to innumerable hydatids.

August 24, 1814.

ART. IX.

CASE OF CHOREA SANCTI VITI, FOLLOWING PNEUMONIA.

Miss Jager, of William street, Commercial road, aged 14, was visited on the 23d of November 1811. She then laboured under fever, with pneumonia, which had taken place a few days preceding.

Leeches were applied to the chest, and saline, with antimonial medicines, taken.

On the 24th, the difficulty of breathing was increased, to relieve which, cupping on the chest was recommended, and the same internal remedies directed to be taken; these kept the body laxative, and diminished the fever, without, however, lessening the dyspnœa, which was rather increased, and prevented her lying down; with a cough almost incessant, and an accelerated pulse. Hence, on the 25th, seven ounces of blood were drawn from the arm, and on the subsequent day a blister was applied to the chest. The blood was sizy, but venesection was not repeated, as the urgent symptoms were considerably mitigated; and day by day she grew better, reclined in bed with facility, neither cough nor fever being urgent.

In this state of convalescence, a new disease supervened, for in the commencement of December, she became generally agitated, with the chorea sancti viti, and immediately every symptom of pneumonia disappeared. I concluded to substitute tonics in lieu of the former treatment. Fearful, however, least the tonic of *cinchona* might occasion a return of pneumonia, I instituted the weak chalybeate of *vinum ferri*, with a pill containing a small portion of *zinci sulphas*; and afterwards *ferrum tartarizatum*. Apprehending no danger, I postponed my visit for two days, but on the second prior to my attendance, she died.

REMARKS.

There is not any thing remarkable in the course of the peripneumonic symptoms, or of the treatment; but the sudden transition from these apparently dangerous, to those of chorea, (which never previously threatened the patient,) with the immediate cessation of the former, excited my attention. She was indeed constitutionally delicate, and had recently grown fast; the menses had never appeared; no indisposition, however, preceded the pneumonia; and hence I had entertained no doubt of final recovery, which I expressed, certainly, with too much confidence. In contemplating, however, the whole train of symptoms, I am at a loss to account for the mortal termination. I did not notice any symptoms indicative of determination to the brain, though pro-

bably this ensued after my visit, for the degree of debility was not then alarming, and all I could collect from the family was, that she died in convulsions. The event, however, should impress upon the practitioner the necessity of a guarded prognostic, even respecting diseases not usually fatal.

December 28, 1811.

ART. X.

SPASMODIC AFFECTIONS, PRODUCED BY THE PRICK OF A PIN, AND OTHER TRIVIAL INCIDENTS.

In diseases of magnitude, professional aid is naturally sought after, but in most slight affections, or those arising from trivial causes, little apprehension is excited, and they are neglected, and sometimes forgotten. Such are those I shall introduce here, as they convey cautions to prevent inattention to incidents which occasion pain longer than should appear requisite to the removal of the injury sustained.

CASE I.

H. M. a married woman, 41 years of age, of temperate habits and good health, except occasional head-achs and slight hysterical affections, in passing her right hand over her stays, pricked the inside of the thumb, about half an inch from the extremity, with the point of a pin which projected from the stays. This occurred in August: at the time of the accident no alarm was excited, and no attention paid to the in-

cident. On the 25th the injured part became very painful, the uneasy sensation extending up the arm to the axilla, and soon afterwards to the fauces and to the muscles of the chest and back of the neck, followed with rigidity and difficulty of breathing. These were succeeded by sickness and frequent hiccup. On the 30th several convulsive fits occurred. It was observable, that pressure on the masseter muscle, or near the articulation of the lower jaw, excited pain in the thumb, and the arm itself felt, as she expressed it, like lead; the pulse, however, although quick, was regular.

On the 31st every thing taken into the stomach was ejected, and the pains and rigidity extended to both sides of the body, and over the muscles of the face, with convulsive motions of the abdominal muscles, and with excruciating head-ach.

At the commencement of these alarming symptoms, the warm bath was repeatedly used without any sensible effect. Mercurial ointment was applied till about the 8th of September, when a salivation commenced, but with little or no change of symptoms. During this period opiates were exhibited, although not in large doses; but, instead of mitigating the symptoms, they became more severe, and the rigidity of the muscles, gradually augmented to a complete tetany or locked-jaw, with opisthotonos and stiffness of the whole frame.

Opiates were now exhibited freely, by the mouth and by clyster, sometimes joined with assafœtida,

and with musk. By the mouth, ten grains of solid opium were taken every six hours: by clysters, two drachms of the tincture were exhibited twice a day; little sleep, however, resulted.

By the 20th of September the aspect was more favourable, and the tetanic symptoms gradually subsided; but the head-ach, and disposition to syncope, continued, though in a less degree. Soon after this time, I left the patient under the care of the family practitioner.

Curiosity led me to inquire respecting her about two years afterwards; her health had not been established; she was so feeble, as scarcely to be able to walk the length of a street, and this only by the assistance of a person's arm. Convulsive fits also occurred, sometimes twice a week; she imagined that she had a presage of their assaults, by observing a dead whiteness of the skin of the thumb originally affected, of the extent of a pin's head, at the spot where the injury was first received.

These recent attacks came on with a lancinating pain of the thumb, darting up the arm to the axilla, and also to the pectoral and abdominal muscles. At this stage hiccup, of more or less violence and duration, ensued, succeeded by a slight rigidity of the whole body, gradually augmenting to a greater degree in the muscles of the neck and fauces. The leg of the side first affected became numbed and cramped, and in general this whole side suffered more than the other, though sometimes the left arm did not escape. The fit occasionally terminated

in two or three hours; sometimes it continued a day, or even 36 hours; but whether these fits were of shorter or longer duration, they usually ended with a severe head-ach, occupying, first, the back part of the head, and gradually spreading to the forehead, with stupor. These repeated attacks greatly affected her vision.

Soon after I first saw this unfortunate case, I suggested amputation of the thumb, or an incision to be made through the periosteum to the bone of the joint affected. Whether either of these plans would have produced any salutary effect, I much doubt, as a tight ligature was made upon the thumb, above the part affected; but this always brought on or increased the convulsive motions, on which account the late Mr. Hunter, who was consulted, imagined that amputation would not afford relief. Electricity was tried, without any benefit; as well as various fomentations, and cold applications of different kinds.

CASE II.

A young woman, having a relation going to sea in a short period, closely employed herself with the needle, and unguardedly pricked her finger, but from the hurry necessary to complete her work, paid no attention to the injury, till a painful sensation of the arm prevented her from using it. This was followed by a locked jaw, a total rigidity of the body, and the train of symptoms usually accompanying such a dreadful malady.

When I first visited the patient, a repetition of the warm bath was recommended; but as no benefit resulted, the cold bath was tried. At first, it produced some favourable change; at length, however, it appeared to have no salutary effect; and ultimately the free use of opium overcame the violence of the disease, and in three weeks she recovered.

CASE III.

A young woman, about twenty years of age, of a slender delicate form, and fair complexion, had the misfortune to wound her right hand with a hair pin, on the 22d of December, 1786. The wound did not bleed, but immediately assumed a livid blackish colour, attended at first with numbness, which, in about ten minutes, was succeeded by sharp lancinating pains. The part soon began to swell, which extended as far as the elbow; the next day it became red and inflamed, which continued to increase for eight days, when she came to London for advice.

The inflammation gradually extended to the shoulder, with an increase of the pain, proceeding up the neck to the head: all the fingers of the affected hand were contracted. On the 1st of January, 1787, six ounces of blood were taken from the arm. Small doses of opium were given, and externally emollient liniments were applied.

No favourable change in the symptoms, however, occurred till the 14th, being three weeks

from the accident, at which time the pain and inflammation greatly subsided, although the fingers remained in a state of contraction. By the application of electricity, the contraction was removed; and in the beginning of February she returned to her usual employment of the needle; soon after which the preceding symptoms recurred, and electricity was again repeatedly tried, without producing any salutary effect. She was weak, restless, and feverish; had an incessant cough; the fingers and arm became rigid; and convulsive twitchings in the face ensued.

Bark at this time was exhibited freely, but without advantage; and opium, with antimonials, were administered, till about one thousand drops of *tinct. opii* were taken in twenty-four hours, and as much antimonial wine as the stomach could bear without nausea. From this treatment she gradually amended; and on the 28th of this month no inconvenience, but extreme debility, remained, of which she ultimately recovered.

In this case we have not only an instance of the prodigious violence inflicted upon the constitution by this peculiar mode of wounding the nerves, but we are to conclude, that the danger was averted by the liberal use of opiates, combined with antimony.

CASE IV.

A. Dixon, a young woman about 25 years of age, perceived, in the morning of the 6th of May, 1794, a slight degree of stiffness in moving the lower jaw; but as she was otherwise well, she paid little attention to it. On going up stairs to bed, on the evening of the same day, she felt an unusual degree of stiffness along the whole spine. On the next day, Mr. Ward, the surgeon, having occasion to visit a sister of the young lady's, with whom she then resided, complaint was made to him of these rigid sensations just mentioned. As there was no suspicion of any other cause than a cold, an emetic was taken, and some mild diaphoretic medicines, with a moderate laxative. The symptoms, however, gradually increased, and about the 12th of April, the surgeon, finding the patient labouring under a complete tetany, ordered a blister to the spine of the back, and another to the throat; and to the draught, 25 drops of tincture of opium were added at night; but the disease still augmenting, the warm bath was had recourse to, and had been used two or three times a day, previous to my attendance, which was on the 21st of the month. After the most minute inquiry, respecting any prick or wound to occasion the tetany, I was informed, that no incident could be recollected.

There was a total rigidity of the whole spine; the mouth could be opened to the extent of one fourth

of an inch only, but articulation was not greatly impeded. The patient complained of a sense of stricture about the præcordia, and the abdomen was so tense, as to admit of no impression from the hand. She could move both the legs and arms; but several times a day, severe cramps attacked the limbs, and particularly the left arm.

I ordered a draught, with ten drops of tincture of opium every four hours, and an enema twice a day, with thirty drops in each; and that the back should be well rubbed, morning and evening, with the tincture.

April 22.—The patient had had much refreshing sleep, and she could extend the mouth a *little* wider; but no material alteration otherwise presented. The medicines were continued, with the addition of *tinct. opii gtt iij in sing. haust.*

The patient now told me, that on the 3d and 4th of April, she had employed herself almost incessantly at needle-work; and that she had repeatedly pricked herself under the thumb and finger nails of the left hand; and that on the 5th she had used her hands much in cold water, in some domestic affairs. This led her to conclude, that the rigidity she had perceived on the 6th, as already described, was merely a rheumatic affection from cold. It has been observed, that she suffered more violent cramps in the left than in the right arm.

April 23.—The symptoms of rigidity of the whole trunk of the body, and spasms of the limbs, were rather increased than diminished.

The medicines were continued; and as she had been without a stool for two days, a laxative was directed.

One ounce of crude *Sal Ammoniac* was dissolved in a quart of water, with which the abdomen was frequently bathed.

April 24.—No alteration was visible, except that the abdomen might be less rigid. The laxative had produced two stools. The pulse hitherto remained about 85, and nutritive fluids were swallowed with tolerable ease. The opiate friction was continued to the back, and the frigid water to the abdomen.

Twenty-five drops of tincture of opium in a musk draught was ordered to be given every four hours, and a clyster to be injected, with thirty drops every eight hours. I also requested the surgeon, provided the rigidity continued, to have the patient taken out of bed and plunged in cold water, or aspersed with it freely.

I ought to have observed that at my first visit there was a considerable *essera* from head to foot, which to-day was much diminished.

April 25.—Has taken six draughts, with twenty-five drops of tincture of opium in each, and received three clysters with forty drops, within 24 hours. Till two this morning the patient was afflicted with more violent spasms, particularly of the left side. At this hour she was immersed in a bathing tub of cold water, and immediately afterwards put to bed. For some subsequent hours the spasms, she imagined, had increased; but at four o'clock

to-day, when I attended, she could open her mouth to the extent of half an inch, and the belly was less tense. I observed, however, that the pulse was quickened to 110. The draughts were repeated with the addition of *Pulv. Cort. Peruv.* ʒi. and the anodyne clysters were ordered, as before.

April 26.—The above remedies were regularly continued for 24 hours, in which space she had been twice aspersed with cold water; but the symptoms were not in the least moderated. The pulse was 124, and the rigidity of the whole trunk of the body, and particularly of the abdomen and neck, was increased. The frequent spasms of the limbs were attended with agonizing pains; and these pains, she said, were considerably increased by the application of the cold water. She was very capable of articulating, and also of swallowing. Whenever she was costive, a laxative enema, or the infusion of senna, afforded relief.

The cold water was discontinued, as well as the bark; and she was ordered two grains of opium every two hours.

April 27.—All the symptoms had taken a favourable turn; the pulse was 104; the spasms of the limbs had nearly subsided; the rigidity removed; and the mouth could again be opened about half an inch. The rigidity of the trunk of the body, though diminished, was still considerable.

The patient had slept well, and in sleep had started very little, which previously had excited much distress and pain.

The pills were continued, and occasionally the laxative medicines.

April 28.—I found the patient in a considerable perspiration, the eruption very general, and the rigidity of the abdomen somewhat relaxed. She had slept pretty well, and the pulse was 96. I ordered 16 grains of opium to be divided into 24 pills, of which one was to be taken every hour; so that 16 grains of opium might be taken in 24 hours, instead of 12.

April 29.—Although the pills had been taken regularly, the patient had enjoyed very little sleep. She complained of much more uneasiness, but the symptoms of rigidity were moderated. The pills were continued, and a fomentation of poppy heads to the abdomen was recommended.

April 30.—The pulse was 96. She had taken the pills regularly, but had passed a restless night. The fomentation had not been applied, but the abdomen seemed less tense, and the mouth as capable of being extended. She was able to sit in a chair to day. She observed, that she had been full as sensible of the spasms, but felt them the least in the back, where the blister had been applied. The opening medicine was again repeated, and the same quantity of opium continued, with the addition of one scruple of *Extractum Cicutæ* in 24 hours.

On the thumb, and one finger of the right hand, the hand not pricked by sewing, two whitlows had suppurated.

May 1.—Pulse 86. Was more able to sit up. Had slept much, and taken some bread with tea for the first time during the illness. The pills were ordered to be taken every other hour only.

May 3.—Pulse 76. The patient took nourishment, and was able to walk about the room. She had passed several stools, from the use of a laxative medicine. I ordered one pill to be taken every three hours; and she was upon the whole so well, as not to demand my future attendance. The eruption was scaling off.

I do not notice this case of recovery as affording any extraordinary symptoms, or matter of information. Cases attended with more violent degrees of spasm have been recovered, and similar methods have been adopted; but so frequently fatal, however, is the tetany, that I think the records of medical science would not be rendered voluminous, by the relations of successful practice.

As I know of no other cause for the present disease, but the frequent wounding of the ends of the fingers with the needle in sewing, I hence deduce its origin.

The relation of the symptoms and treatment will point out the little effect of the warm bath; and although for two days benefit seemed to arise from the use of cold water, it did not afterwards

afford any encouragement to pursue it, but the reverse; and it was attended with increased spasms at the time of application. The trial of bark for one day did not warrant its subsequent exhibition. Opium seemed to have had the chief, if not the sole merit; for the *cicuta* was tried after a mitigation of symptoms had occurred; though after its combination with opium, the recovery was greatly accelerated.

May 24, 1794.

ART. XI.

CASE OF EPILEPSY.

Miss Grimsdell, of Islington, was said to have been frequently attacked with epileptic fits, as early as her third year. From the fourth to the ninth, she continued free from any particular complaint, and spent this interval at school, where her literary progress was gratifying, and her disposition lively. Prior, however, to the conclusion of her ninth year, the epileptic paroxysms recurred, and continued with more or less frequency till her fifteenth year, soon after which her existence terminated.

The menses had been regular during the last year, without sensibly producing any change in the appearance, degree of violence, or frequency of recurrence, of the attacks; nor after their subsidence, was there any obvious weakness of mental capacity.

She was a well grown, and well formed, young woman, for the period at which she had arrived; of a cheerful disposition, but liable to irritation from trivial circumstances; and upon such occasions she was prone to *hysteria*; and hence, every

cause of excitement was studiously avoided, and every solace of enjoyment and tranquillity afforded. She possessed an acute and discriminating ear, and had acquired a proficiency in music.

About the middle of July, 1814, the menses appeared as usual; and prior to the subsequent period, she had been twice seized with epilepsy; the first attack, which was on the 27th, was so trivial, as to admit her to enjoy her music, and the cheerful conversation of society, on the following day; but on the 29th of July, the second and last paroxysm was particularly severe, and Messrs. Jeaffreson and Armstrong, of Islington, the medical friends of the family, were consulted; and on the 31st I was desired to meet them.

She was confined to her bed, and I found her reclined with her chest and head low, scarcely raised by a pillow, which I was more particularly led to notice, from the very extraordinary quick and difficult breathing, sometimes rendered more laborious by a hurrying cough, but without any expectoration. The breathing very much resembled that spasmodic affection, which often is a prelude to dissolution, and called by female attendants, the rattles. The pulse was so rapid, as to beat 200 strokes in a minute, a number with difficulty ascertained, but no intermission or irregularity was perceptible.

This difficulty and oppression was attended with frequent jactation, and turning from side to side. The tongue was moist and shining, very much

resembling that appearance of it, prelusive to aphthæ in fever. Her intellects at the same time were clear and rational, and continued so to the last hour of life. She took fluids, though sparingly, which were retained; and during the whole of this agitated period, I learnt upon inquiry, she never complained of any pain, even to the last expiration, which closed her existence on the 2d of August.

Although the nature and violence of the paroxysms would induce a suspicion of some morbid affection of the brain, it is rather unusual with pressure on that organ, to find the pulse, throughout the stage of the disease, uniformly rapid, and rather weak, as was the state in the present instance. Under all these circumstances, I was anxious to avail myself of dissection, to ascertain the morbid affection of the suspected organs, which met with the concurrence of the parents, and Messrs. Jeaffreson and Armstrong attended to perform the necessary process.

The thorax engaged our first attention, and its contents were carefully examined; but not the least morbid appearance was presented, either in the pulmonary system, or in the heart or surrounding membranes.

The head being opened, and the brain exposed, various morbid affections were obvious: the blood-vessels of the dura mater, although not ruptured, were turgid and loaded; but there was no extra-

vasation of any fluid. Over the falx, somewhat inclining to the left side, the dura and pia mater adhered to it closely for the extent of an inch, from the accumulation of fibrin, and thickening of the part, and interspersed with small bony fragments, which, in one portion more particularly, were pointed like minute nails, and turned inwards upon the brain. The cerebellum exhibited no mark of disease, but the whole medullary portion of the brain seemed compact and heavy.

The ventricles were turgid with water, apparently containing each an ounce of fluid.

From this view of the parts of the brain, the proximate cause of dissolution might be attributable to the bony spiculæ already described, rather than to the extent of effusion into the ventricles of the brain.

From the account given by her parents, the epileptic paroxysms occurred as early as her third year, when there was not probably any thing like the tumor upon the falx, as already described, as these paroxysms totally subsided from the 4th to the 9th year; nor can it now be ascertained from whence they originated; for had this fibrin, which constituted the tumor, been exuded at the onset of the disorder, the subsequent period of health, for the space of five years, could not have intervened, as the primary cause of disease must have been gradually increasing. The same reasoning will apply to the hydropic state of the ventri-

cles. In some cases of mental derangement, the medullary substance of the brain has been found preternaturally compact and heavy; but how far some revolution in the organization of this substance, under this tendency, might have been early induced, is more a matter of suggestion than of proof. In the dissection of the brain in this case, it did appear to the eye and touch compact and heavy; though no experiment was made to ascertain its relative or absolute weight and density.

At whatever period this fibrin was exuded from the dura mater, thickened, and pressed upon the falx, it is probable that the bony substances were deposited about the 9th year, from which period the epileptic paroxysms continued to increase *till* the termination of life. It is easy hence to explain, that upon any excitement of the action of the sanguiferous system, whether from the stimulus of food, exercise, or passion, the paroxysms of epilepsy might ensue, as any turgescence in the vessels of the brain, pressing on the points of the bony fragments, would produce that morbid action, or irregularity in the system of the brain, favourable to such paroxysms. Similar cases I have previously seen, but not with that rapidity of the pulse which the present case exhibited; though it was observed by Mr. Jeaffreson, that he had met with such instances, in consequence of which he suspected a morbid state of the brain, before the cranium was opened. Perhaps it resulted from the irritation of

the bony spiculæ acting upon the brain, rather than from the density of the fibrin pressing upon it; for torpor of intellect, as well as of the nervous and sanguineous systems, is usually attributable to pressure on this organ.

Oct. 24, 1814.

ART. XII.

CASE OF CONTRACTED ILEUM.

About the beginning of April, 1813, I first attended the present subject of description, aged 11 years, on account of a febrile disposition, which usually increased in the evening and subsided in the morning, after considerable perspiration in the night. There was no obvious difficulty of breathing, and with a cough so moderate as to claim little attention, the tongue was moist, and thirst inconsiderable. The prevalent symptom was diarrhœa, with considerable abdominal irritation, and increased pain during his alvine evacuations. The abdomen was enlarged and tense, and painful upon pressure. Every other part of the body was greatly emaciated, and debility prevented him from taking exercise.

The fever was treated with effervescing or saline medicines, and the diarrhœa was restrained by opiates. The abdomen was occasionally fomented with the decoction of poppies.

About the middle of July there was less indisposition; the swelling of the abdomen having subsided, as well as the diarrhœa; the fever was trivial,

and the cough tolerant, with an increased appetite; but the weakness and emaciation continued. As there was not now any predominant symptom, he was removed to Croydon, without suffering much fatigue. Here he partook of milk, and other kinds of mild nutrition; he rallied a little in his degree of strength, and even now and then was capable of gently riding on horseback; but he continued in the same extenuated state, and again relapsed into his former debility, which induced his parents to remove him to town. The diarrhœa, which had returned, was again checked, but he never recovered his appetite; whilst exacerbations of fever exhausted his strength, and vitality ceased on the 8th of August. On the 9th the body was examined by Mr. Cresswick, when I attended.

THE DISSECTION.

In the thorax, there was rather a larger portion of fluid in the pericardium than usual; but the heart was in a healthy state. The lobes of the lungs were contracted, and firmly adhered to the pleura costalis, and slightly to the pericardium. They were studded with little suppurations, and in their substance loaded with purulent matter. The liver and gall bladder, as well as the stomach, were in their natural state. In the abdomen, the omentum was nearly destroyed, being melted down, with purulent matter floating in the cavity, in consequence of the inflammatory and suppurative state of the adjacent membranes

and intestines, combined with feculent matter, discharged from the latter, in consequence of sphacelated portions of the jejunum. This floating matter might amount to rather more than half a pint. The internal coat of this intestine, as well as of the ileum, was nearly destroyed by inflammation and suppurations, not very dissimilar to aphthæ. The mesenteric glands were scirrhous and enlarged, though not in a suppurative state, but in such a morbid condition, nutrition could not have been conveyed to the body, and hence marasmus naturally resulted.

From the information I acquired, this youth was indisposed at least two years before his dissolution, with fever and pain of the breast, and was merely considered as having taken cold, for which no salutary measures had been adopted. Probably the affection of the lungs commenced at this early period. As the joints were firm and well formed, there probably were not, at this period, any considerable scrophulous symptoms; and had the subsequent disease been anticipated by a *judicious* practitioner, it might perhaps have been obviated by bleeding, evacuations, and other well-known means of removing general inflammation.

References to Plate I.

Figure 1 is the intestinum ileum, in which two adhesions have taken place, between its external coats. A, an adhesion. B, a second adhesion, by a singular obtrusion or excrescence, very similar to the cæcum vermiforme, but larger, being capable of admitting a finger. It at first sight appeared to be the course of the intestinal canal.

Figure 2, the same intestine; the adhesions being separated, and the protruded portion shewn at C. The whole internal coat of the intestine was in a state of ulceration.

ART. XIII.

CASE OF APPARENT PHTHISIS PULMONALIS, OCCASIONED BY A SUBSTANCE TAKEN INTO THE TRACHEA.

Alexander Sinclair, a youth of about 10 years of age, accidentally took into the trachea the *foil* which covered one of the buttons of his coat; this occurred in the beginning of October 1783; but which he never disclosed, nor was the incident suspected by his parents. I was consulted in consequence of a severe cough, considerable hoarseness, and difficulty of breathing, with an acute pain at the upper part of the sternum. Without being acquainted with the circumstance alluded to, I recommended repeated venesection, a blister to the sternum, and the coolest farinaceous drinks, in consequence of the highly febrile symptoms under which he laboured.

In the winter a free expectoration took place, and profuse night sweats ensued. He became extremely emaciated, and the usual symptoms of a pulmonary consumption were evident. In

the spring of 1784, his father, who was the captain of a vessel, engaged to sail to Jamaica, and weak as was the state of the son, I recommended the voyage, under the prospect of advantage in a warmer climate. He was accordingly conveyed, (for he was not able to walk,) on board the vessel. During the voyage, however, the cough continued very severe, and, in a violent exertion, he expectorated the foil, (Plate I. Figs. 3 and 4.) which he had received into the trachea, in the month of the preceding October. From this time he rapidly recovered, and is now in good health. How a substance of the size described, could have lain in the larynx, or any part of the trachea, for so long a period, without producing a more sudden and active effect, is almost inconceivable; and yet Morgagni, and other authors, have confirmed by dissections the existence of excrescences, and the formation of bony substances, in this very irritable part. I have known several instances of considerable quantities of concreted matter to have been thrown up by coughing; but these having been gradually formed, would be less likely to produce any violent stimulus, although they usually terminate fatally.

February 20, 1786.

ART. XIV.

CASE OF CONSTIPATION FROM INDURATED FÆCES.

E. V***, a married lady, 35 years of age, who never had had a child, was a person of temperance in her mode of living, and used a greater share of exercise than is common with the higher ranks of females in London. In the month of October, 1806, she experienced a load or pressure about the rectum, with a frequent inclination to go to stool, and passed portions of thin excrement, interspersed with small scybala.

The apothecary who was consulted, very properly gave a laxative medicine, which evacuated, as I learnt, a considerable quantity of fæces; but still the little thin alvine excretions continued; and during the week prior to my attendance, there was not any regular profusion of stools, but a frequent involuntary deposition of fæces, without the power of exertion to discharge them; hence a cloth was constantly placed under the patient to receive such evacuations.

From a suspicion of the presence of indurated fæces, a purgative was again administered; as

likewise a succession of laxative clysters, by an expert servant. These combined means, however, produced no great or proper discharge of fæces; the clysters met with too much obstruction to pass, and it was found that the little quantity of fluid introduced, constantly returned by the vagina, and it now appeared probable, that the fæces followed the same channel.

On this account I proposed the assistance of an accoucheur, and Dr. Dennison was consulted. On examining the parts, *per anum et vaginam*, he found a tumor situated in the former, so hard and imperviable, as to induce a suspicion of a scirrhus; a perforation from the rectum into the vagina, through which the fæces passed, being diverted out of their natural channel, by the substance, which nearly closed up the cavity of this intestine, was also suspected.

The patient having been much fatigued by the examination, further scrutiny was postponed to the subsequent day, when it was ascertained, that the supposed tumor in the rectum consisted of a mass of fæces, so indurated, as to elude any attempt to remove it by the finger; and hence the surgical aid of Mr. Astley Cooper was requested, who gradually extricated this mass by means of the forceps. After its removal, other masses, higher up in the rectum, were found to line its cavity, and by renewed efforts on the following day, aided by laxatives of castor oil, the obstruction was completely removed. The alvine discharges, however, con-

tinued to pass through the vagina in a copious degree, and always involuntarily. At length opiates were indicated, to lessen the excess of the evacuations, which were mixed with mucus, and sometimes tinged with blood.

In this state the patient remained for about the space of fourteen days, gradually sinking, till death ensued.

On dissection, the opinion entertained, of a perforation from the rectum into the vagina, was confirmed. It was probably occasioned by the indurated fæces obstructing the cavity of the rectum; in consequence of which, the fæces, descending from the superior intestines, and pressing upon the rectum above the indurated mass, dilating its coats on the side of the vagina, burst through them into the cavity of the latter, and formed a new outlet to this excretion, and thus produced the subsequent changes, and that degree of debility and exhaustion, as finally to bring on death.

The rectum was found void of fæces. The viscera presented no marks of disease, except that in the gall bladder a large calculus was discovered. Had this prevented the exit of the bile, the constipation might have been attributed to it; but the fæces had always the appearance of what is termed bilious, and never were clay-coloured, or white.

In the Medical Observations and Inquiries (vol. iv. p. 123), and in the quarto edition of the Works of Dr. Fothergill (p. 289) there is an essay by

that eminent physician, entitled, "On painful constipation from indurated fæces;" which, although anonymous, was the production of his pen, as he informed me. He supposes the origin of this disease, in a great measure, to result from the use of astringent remedies, and particularly of the Peruvian Bark. Several instances of this disease have occurred in my practice, but not any of them have arisen from these or any other similar causes. They have usually happened to females of a lax habit with torpid action, and leading a sedentary life.

If the disease does not yield to laxatives, assistance must be derived from the introduction of the finger, of a spoon, or a forceps.

Except in the case above described, I never knew the disease to prove fatal; nevertheless, the recurrence of it should be guarded against, by the occasional exhibition of laxatives, as neutral salts, and particularly castor oil, which operates without inducing subsequent constipation, as is apt to result from the exhibition of jalap, rhubarb, or aloes. Exercise is also an important means of prevention.

The great object of discrimination is to ascertain the existence of the disease, for it assumes, most frequently, the appearance of diarrhœa or dysentery, but there is neither dysenteric fæces nor fever; the evacuations, although thin, do not exhibit a morbid state. The patient complains of a load and fulness about the rectum, as well as of the abdomen, and particularly on stooping for-

wards. In most other respects, a tolerable state of health is enjoyed, with the functions in general connected with it.

As the alvine evacuations are frequent and thin, the disease has been treated sometimes with astringents and opiates, which of course must rather augment than diminish the original affection; for in some instances the cavity of the rectum is completely cased round with indurated fæces, allowing a passage in the centre, for the exit of thin fæces, which the stimulus from the hardened feculent case is continually soliciting, and thus may be mistaken, by the superficial observer, for a diarrhœa or dysentery; but its true nature cannot escape detection, with persons of accurate observation.

April 20, 1807.

ART. XV.

NOTICES ON THE DISCUSSIONS IN THE MEDICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON, ON MONDAY THE 27TH OF FEBRUARY, 1809, RESPECTING THE TUSSIS CONVULSIVA.

In these discussions much useful information was conveyed on the subject of the tussis convulsiva; some notices on which I have committed to paper, both from the members who delivered their sentiments, and from the writings of some authors I have since consulted.

Mr. L**** introduced the discussion into the society, by communicating the progress of the disease in his own family, where he had administered the *Tinctura Digitalis* in doses, to excite nausea, and even vomiting, without, however, rendering the pulse slower, or relieving the disease; and he suggested, from observation, that this medicine had not the same effect on children as on adults, in reducing the quickness of the pulse. The acute symptoms had at their commencement been moderated by the application of leeches and blisters, and the internal use of antimonials. He

noticed at the same time, that some more recent cases that had come under his care, were attended with so much debility as to discountenance bleeding, or any very active evacuations. This remark was confirmed by the observations of another member.

Mr. L**** observed, that he had found the digitalis beneficial in general in his practice; at least superior to any other remedy that experience had suggested to him.

Mr. A**** remarked, that two of his children, severely labouring under the disease, were attended by three eminent physicians, whose treatment was antiphlogistic, with antimonials, repeated emetics, sudorifics and opiates. They also, in a particular manner, enjoined the confinement and warmth of a bed-chamber. In six weeks the patients were convalescent.

Dr. A****, from his experience, reprobated the practice of frequent vomiting, and concluded, that after removing the first influence of the morbid infection, the habit would be improved, and health sooner restored, by enjoying the air.

Dr. B******* mentioned a composition, which had been lately introduced as a remedy in this disease, under the title of *moschus artificialis*, made by pouring the nitric acid on amber, and evaporating it to dryness by a moderate heat. It was observed by a member, that some trials had been instituted by him of the efficacy of this medicine, but without any beneficial effect. This

medicine was introduced into practice by Dr. Hufeland.

It was mentioned, that acetate of lead had been recommended in this disease, which a member observed, he had tried without any advantage; whilst, on the other hand, it had produced the *colica pictonum* in a dangerous degree.

Dr. T***** expressed his favourable opinion of the combination of bark and tincture of cantharides, exhibited as soon as the inflammatory symptoms were removed. This he had found singularly beneficial in his extensive practice.

Dr. W******* entered into a pretty full discussion of the disease. He commented upon the dissections of those who had died, which uniformly evinced its inflammatory tendency, by suppurations in the chest, or water effused in it, as well as on the brain, from previous inflammation. Hence he inferred the necessity of early reducing the phlogistic tendency, by bleeding, blistering, and febrifuge medicines; and lastly, by tonics and air, when this tendency had been subdued.

The President [Dr. Lettsom] had previously adopted similar sentiments of the early antiphlogistic treatment; the cautious use of vomits and antimonials, and particularly intervening mercurial laxatives. He concluded by confirming the propriety, safety, and efficacy of Dr. T's method of prescribing bark, with cantharides and paregoric elixir. This practice, he observed, had been used by Dr. Barton, of York, and afterwards by Dr.

Sutcliff, of Settle, about the year 1750. The mode of exhibition was by commencing with small doses of the composition, and gradually increasing the quantity, till strangury was excited, and afterwards as gradually diminishing it. The tincture of cantharides may be given to an infant two years old, from 20 to 30 drops, three times a day. The disease usually subsides on the occurrence of the stimulus of strangury.

After this cursory statement, I shall add a few authorities from printed works, that have since more immediately occurred to my reading.

Sauvages recommends at the commencement of the disease, the antiphlogistic treatment, with venesection, as well as vomiting, with the caution of "dein lene vomitorium præscribendum." He afterwards exhibits the *lichen pyxidatus*, injudiciously adding, "nec non *saccharum saturni* ad grana duo tria, et demum *kinkina* parva dosi." I introduce his own words, to contrast those of Baron Quarin, of Vienna. I think it was about the year 1784, on conversing with the Baron, on the treatment of pertussis, with the internal use of bark and tincture of cantharides, that he desired me to suspend my opinion till he published his "Animadversiones practicæ in diversos morbos," then in the press. Much information might be expected from a physician who claimed the imperial practice of the Cæsars, with that of the largest hospital in the world. It is this celebrated physician, who

was asked by the Emperor Joseph, on his death bed, his opinion of his case; to which he replied, that he (the Emperor) would not survive 48 hours. To the honour of the Emperor, let it also be recorded, that he immediately created Quarin a Baron, with a pension of above £2000 *per annum* to support the rank.

My favourable expectations were not highly gratified by the perusal of the "Animadversiones." Quarin, indeed, recommends the usual mode of antiphlogistic treatment in the commencement of the disease, with bleeding, and cautious vomiting. Towards the conclusion, he approves of the *cortex*; but, under mistaken notions of the internal use of cantharides, he says, "Propinatur a quibusdam in tussi convulsiva *tinctura cantharidum*, sed hujus remedii usum quandoque periculosum esse experientia constat."

With the *cortex*, he adds, "neque *lichen islandicus* negligi debet;" and from Rosenstein he introduces another trivial vegetable, the *moschum arboreum*, particularly that growing on the oak; and with more propriety from my old master, Professor Gaubius, *flores zinci*. To his credit, however, let it be noticed, his reprobation of the practice of the Professor at Montpelier: "Damnando prorsus ac inhumano consilio Sauvages duo, triave *sacchari saturni* grana suadet."

Professor Whytt recommends the bark very early in the disease.

Werlhof's favourite medicine was sweet spirit of nitre, with syrup of corals. Compare this with De Haen; tom. XIII, p. 272.

Dr. Storck, of Vienna, so famous for his ingenious tables respecting Cicuta, Colchicum, Autumnale, and Belladonna, in his Præcepta Medico-practica, edited by Schosalan, tom. I. p. 279, gives a succinct history of this disease. In practice he commences with antimonials, expectorants, opiates, and bleeding; and although he admits of the repetition of the latter, observes, "Venæ sectione opus est, quæ pro ratione virium et symptomatum repetenda erit, ea tamen cautela, ne ægro hac ratione inducatur debilitas, qua tussis exasperaretur." He was the first physician who gave hemlock in this disease, though he was less strenuous in its use than Dr. Butter. In some instances, he substituted hyoscyamus; and towards the termination of the inflammatory symptoms, recommended bark.

Dr. Stoll, of Vienna, like our Huxham, Fothergill, and Willan, kept a diary of the weather and diseases. This and his Prælectiones were edited by Eyerel. His remarks are rather vague than instructive, and his remedies seem to have been brought together from different authorities, without a clear discrimination. From such a jumble, it would be difficult to ascertain a rational mode of practice. Compare his sixth volume of Prælectiones.

Dr. Miller recommends, in the most decisive manner, the solution of *assafœtida*.

My late valued correspondent, Dr. Zimmerman, of Hanover, the excellent author of the works on Solitude; Experience in Medicine; on National Pride, &c., though courted by Princes, the consulted Physician of the great Frederic, and the correspondent of Catharine of Russia, fell a victim to melancholy, on account of the French Revolution, and died under the room of Tissot. He, like our Fothergill, recommended the treatment as most successful by repeated vomits.

Gissner, who had considerable opportunities of experience at Nordlingen, like Fothergill and Zimmerman, exhibited repeated doses of emetics, and intervened musk, joined with the extract of tobacco.

I expected from Dr. Rosenstein, who wrote particularly on the diseases of children, something like steady principles on this disease, but I do not observe that discrimination which I had anticipated. He admits the emetic system of Fothergill; the musk and castor of Morris; coltsfoot boiled in milk; mare's milk, &c. But his favourite medicine is the emetic, as confirmed by Fothergill, Strandberg, and particularly Bergstral; Act. de l'Acad. des Sciences, 1749, p. 251. These writers, however, recommended the early exhibition of bark.

Sydenham advised active evacuations by the bowels, vomiting and blistering.

In his practice, he observed, that fever was seldom predominant; which is more remarkable, as at the period of his practice the free mode of living generally introduced an inflammatory diathesis; and in his practice bleeding and the antiphlogistic treatment was carried to an extent scarcely equalled by the late Dr. Elliott, Dr. Richard Jebb, or Dr. William Fordyce.

Huxham, who, like Sydenham, entertained a vague theory with a sound practice, favoured bleeding, and recommended a vomit of ipecacuanha every third day. He administered, likewise, purgatives of rhubarb and mercury. Internally, also, he gave *millipedes* and *ammoniacum*; but he laid particular stress on a blister "ad nucham." Lastly, exercise in the air, and even the use of the cold bath.

Frederic Hoffman depended much on frictions, pediluvium, and blistering. His favourite internal remedies were, an electuary or linctus of *ol. amygd. spermaceti*, and syrup of white poppies, and an expectorating mixture with emetic tartar.

Cullen considered that this disease was contagious; but he does not appear to possess much practical knowledge on the subject. He runs into his theory of spasm, to remove which he approves the antimonial vomits of Fothergill. He admits of bleeding, and of blistering on the chest, in opposition to Huxham "ad nucham." One followed the theory of Boerhaave, and the latter Cullen, that of Hoffman, or the spasmodic theory.

He discourages the early exposure to cold air, and the *sulphur auratum* of Clossius and Stoll. He does not favour the cup moss misletoe, or lichens of the Germans, nor the castor of Morris; but he is favourable to musk as an antispasmodic, which I observed, when a pupil, was his favourite theme.

In the Adversaria Medica Practica, vol. i. part 1, Lipsiæ 1769, there are some judicious remarks on this disease. They must be judicious, if coming from Ludwig; and probably though written by one of his pupils, have his sanction. He admits of bleeding, but, in my opinion, with unnecessary caution.

Were these Adversaria, with his Commentaria de Rebus ingestis; with Van Swieten's Commentaries, and Morgagni de Causis et Sedibus Morborum, before us, there would be little occasion for medical instruction from other sources, if we except the works of Sydenham and Boerhaave.

Few, indeed, of the medical writers just referred to, have adverted to the primary seat of this disease. De Haen, I think, refers it to the intestinal canal, but many others to the diaphragm and stomach. Sauvages candidly declares, "Quænam sit sedes principii proximi ignoratur." Rosenstein is of opinion, that the true cause of this disease must be some heterogeneous matter or seed, which has a multiplicative power, and that it only affects children who have not been infected with the disease before. Whether this multiplicative miasma

be a kind of insects, he cannot affirm with any certainty. He supposes these insects to mix with the saliva, and then to be swallowed into the stomach, which he considers as the chief seat of the disease.

From the relations of Sydenham, Huxham, Stoll, Hillary, Cullen, and others, the disease is most prevalent in a moist cold season; it appears to be not only epidemic, but likewise contagious. A contagion of a specific nature first attacking the membrane of the trachea and bronchia with inflammatory action, in which the stomach and diaphragm sympathize, and from the irritation exciting an increased determination of mucus to the glands of this membrane. This irritation, from morbid and increased secretion, excites vomiting, as the means of discharging the offending matter.

If the fever, which is the consequence of this irritation, is considerable, and attended with stricture and difficulty in breathing, there arises a necessity for local or general bleeding; and to prevent the extension of inflammation in the pulmonary vessels, to apply blisters to the chest, rather than "ad nucham," recommended by Huxham, under the theory of revulsion, which, however apparently ideal, has some foundation in experience.

The practice of vomiting has been much more generally recommended; and from the relief afforded by the spontaneous expectoration, it would seem to be a natural indication; and a cautious exhibition of emetics has been found to be

salutary; but it may be doubted how far the practice of Fothergill, of daily vomiting, may be admissible; and I conceive such exertions would greatly debilitate the tender patients who are the subjects of this disease. Squills, and small doses of antimony, or of ipecacuanha, have been administered as expectorants with safety and advantage.

When the inflammatory symptoms have been subdued, and the cough still remaining excessive and fatiguing, opiates have been admitted by most practitioners, as the syrup of poppies, paregoric elixir, and particularly Dover's powder *.

At this period may be exhibited the sedatives *hyoscyamus* and *cicuta* of Storck; the *cicuta* of Butter; the *moschus artificialis* of Hufeland; *digitalis*, and *assafœtida*.

Change of air has been much the fashion in this disease, but its indiscriminate indulgence, especially during the inflammatory stage, has proved injurious, and ultimately excited a pulmonary consumption. When, however, debility is the prominent consequence of the disease, air, with the tonic of bark, are equally indicated, and promote convalescence.

* The author of this powder, who practised in Bristol, was somewhat eccentric, and, in consequence of some dispute, entered on a voyage round the world. Fortunately he published his "Last Legacy," containing, among other recipes, the formula of this powder, now called Pulvis Ipecacuanhæ Compositus. His book is curious, as communicating his treatment under the small-pox by the celebrated Sydenham.

With the bark, some practitioners have united the tincture of cantharides, as recommended by Dr. Barton, of York, author of an Essay on the Non-naturals, so called, and by Dr. Sutcliff, of Settle, about the middle of the last century, although reprobated by Baron Quarin, of Vienna. May not the cantharides take off the convulsive action of coughing, by exciting the stimulus of strangury on the bladder? I have seen a sudden removal of the disease under this circumstance; and the experience of others strengthens this suggestion.

Instead of the more decided tonic of bark, some foreign authors prefer *moschus quercinus*, *lichen islandicus*, *lichen pyxidatus*, or with Gaubius, the *flores zinci*; but if we carefully remove the inflammatory symptoms, air and diet will alone restore the system.

ART. XVI.

CURSORY REMARKS ON SOME DISEASES IN DECEMBER, 1808.

The beginning of December was mild, little or no frost occurring till the 17th; the weather was foggy, like a November month; but after the 17th, the air changed to severe cold, with frost and a considerable fall of snow: this severity of winter continued till the 27th, when a mild thaw ensued, with fogginess and some rain.

In the month of November, and the commencement of December, the Scarlatina Anginosa prevailed, and was fatal with infants. The treatment in this disease has been pretty uniformly established, but uniformity of practice, in any one disease, cannot be supported, so variable are symptoms, from constitution, age, mode of living, and other circumstances; and in this particular disease, the indiscriminate, free, and early exhibition of bark and tonics, has not uniformly proved salutary, but frequently excited morbid determinations, producing on the chest dyspnœa; in the lower extremities, and, sometimes universally, anasarca.

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The late Dr. Fothergill lived to see the impropriety of this indiscriminate tonic treatment; and he often told me, that after evacuations of the stomach and bowels he preferred a cordial sudorific plan, such as saline medicines, with *confectio aromatica* and *contrayerva*, with even the addition of antimonials. The judicious publication on this subject, by Dr. Blackburn, confirms the advantages of this practice, which the following case may in some measure elucidate.

A. Nilham, eight years of age, resident in Chamber-street, had been under the careful management of Mr. Johnson, and whilst convalescent was indulged by her parents with the free use of solid food, and incautiously admitted into the air. The result was a general anasarca, accompanied with fever and difficulty of breathing; delirium ensued, gradually increasing into a frantic state, like perfect derangement. She hastily rose from bed, ran about the chamber with wild agitation, and attempted to precipitate herself through the window. At this time (December 20th), about 10 days from the attack of the disease, I was consulted. The pulse was hard and intermittent, with stupor and heaviness to sleep, and pain from the admission of light, though without dilatation of the pupils. Convulsive fits ensued, and a state of apoplexy seemed approaching. I ordered the immediate application of cupping glasses to the neck, blisters behind the ears, and a purgative of *pulvis scammonii cum*

calomelane. These afforded some relief, but the stupor and convulsions were still alarming. Leeches were then applied to the temples, and saline cathartic draughts were interposed. The anasarca gradually diminished, and she, unexpectedly, recovered.

Anasarca, subsequent on the secession of the scarlatina, is noticed by many practitioners, both here and on the continent. Stoll, in his Prælectiones, vol. II, 1789, p. 316, edited by Eyerel, referring to Plencig, describes it as it appeared in the year above cited.

After the 17th of this month, catarrhal affections prevailed, particularly among children, attended with fever, hoarseness, and difficulty of breathing. Evacuations by the stomach and bowels, and even bleeding, were requisite. At this time leeches were scarce, and indeed the benefit that might be derived from the loss of blood by them is too often counteracted by the slowness of its subduction, and by the inconveniences of moisture, and exposure to air, which necessarily attend their application. Hence I have preferred the cupping glasses, which do not occasion more alarm to children, whilst they afford superior advantages, by the quicker extraction of blood. I had an instance, in an infant which illustrated this practice: It was only eight months old, and laboured under such a state of catarrhal suffocation, as induced me to order the immediate application of small cupping glasses, which I knew

were employed by Mr. Heywood, in Abchurch yard. The relief was highly favourable, and the recovery which resulted I attribute in a considerable degree to this sudden extraction of blood, which could not have been procured by leeches.

I would recommend to practitioners, wherever cuppers are not established, to learn the art of applying these glasses, to which they may have access when leeches cannot be procured.

Menorrhagia.—In all periods of the year, menorrhagia is a disease that requires the immediate aid of medical skill. It is usual to give opiates with *cerussa acetata*, and mineral acids. A case of urgent danger occurred this month: the patient was under the care of Mr. Betson, an experienced practitioner in Wapping. After his judicious attention the discharge still continued in a torrent, and sunk the patient into extreme debility. At this time I ordered a remedy, which I have uniformly found efficient. This is an injection into the uterus *per vaginam*, of five grains of opium dissolved in an ounce or two of water, to be repeated every three or four hours, till the menorrhagia subsides. This treatment I have recommended for the space of 30 years; yet in consultation I never met with any practitioner who had ever pursued this species of remedy. I wish, however, that every accoucheur were acquainted with it, as many lives, I presume to think, would thereby be saved from a fatal *deliquium*, or collapse of vital energy.

With the history of a disease, which I attended in the preceding month, I shall close my cursory remarks on the more important cases of December.

T. Knight, aged 16, West-lane, Walworth, complained so long ago as in the preceding year, of soreness and tension of the abdomen, for which he was under the direction of an eminent physician, who had afforded him considerable relief. The last and most efficacious remedy he directed, was a blister to the part affected, after which, for some months, he continued without any urgent complaint, although occasionally he felt, in a less degree, the original symptoms.

In September I was consulted, and more general indisposition I have rarely witnessed. The abdomen, and indeed the whole body, from the os pubis to the sternum, was very considerably enlarged and indurated, as if the contents were in one scirrhous body, including the whole hepatic region, and liable to the most acute pains on pressure. I conceived that the menseteric glands, the omentum, and liver were in this morbid state, exciting, at the same time, an inflammatory action in the peritoneum. The prominent tumescence, hardness, and soreness a little above the pubis, with the pain in discharging small quantities of urine, induced me to conclude, that either the prostate gland, or the peritoneal doubling over a portion of the bladder in the pelvis was inflamed, or otherwise diseased; but

subsequent circumstances led me to conclude, that the bladder was not materially affected. Suspecting, however, a partial suppression of urine, I requested Mr. Williams, of the Borough High-street, who attended with me, to introduce a bougie or catheter to ascertain the state of the bladder. By the introduction of the former, it was found that no suppression of urine occasioned the tumescence, although the passage into it was considerably contracted; but in consequence of admitting larger and larger bougies, it gradually acquired its usual state; nevertheless, the tension and pain of the abdomen continued. The urine was high-coloured and turbid. The fæces were excessively offensive, sometimes of the paleness and consistence of yeast, and occasionally as dark as coffee-grounds.

Whilst all these parts described were in the most irritable and painful state, the legs and thighs lost all sensibility and action, insomuch that no pinching of the parts, short of laceration, occasioned the least pain. By degrees, a rigidity of the whole system ensued, which was rendered more painful in consequence of convulsive and spasmodic actions, which painfully agitated the whole frame, and extended to the muscles of the neck and face. The mental faculties never were affected; but sometimes during conversation he would sink into a complete aphonia, a temporary asphyxia, and abolition of motion, and rigidity of the body, resembling a cataleptic state.

I could not ascertain that he had shewn any strumous symptoms; he was a delicate youth, but no way previously indisposed in his health. The skin was not tinged with yellow, as in hepatic affections; but the colour and condition of the stools and urine, indicated a morbid state of the liver.

As there was sufficient action in the pulse, leeches were freely and repeatedly applied to the abdomen. Calomel, with cicuta, and saline laxative medicines prescribed; as well as fomentations, and occasional opiates. A mercurial plaster covered the whole abdomen.

Under the administration of these and similar remedies, no mitigation of the symptoms resulted, and death seemed desirable, to close so miserable an existence.

Being apprehensive that under the pressure of this complicated and formidable disease we had not hitherto sufficiently pushed the mercurial course; we concluded to give cicuta and soap pill, as sedatives, joined with as much *pilula ex hydrargyro* as might excite symptoms of ptyalism; whilst the saline laxatives were continued.

For the space of two weeks we kept the gums sore, and at the end of this period some diminution, both of pain and tension, encouraged further exertion, though the prospect was still considerably clouded; but wishing to avail ourselves of another powerful aid, which had formerly proved highly beneficial, the mercurial plaster was or-

dered to be removed, and a large blister to be substituted. I ought also to have remarked, that at this time the fæces had assumed a more natural appearance, the urine was copious, and rather limpid than high-coloured; the aphonia and asphyxia were less frequent; the convulsive spasms were diminished, and the lower extremities had recovered, in some degree, their sensibility.

About three days after these symptoms, I visited the patient, when great was my surprize to find him sitting in a chair; and I was ready to exclaim, "The blister has effected a cure." I could now press the whole region of the liver, abdomen, and pelvis, without exciting much uneasiness. In short, this mutation from the late apparently approaching fatality, to a state nearly convalescent, was like the potent operation of magical agents. The blister, however, had not been applied, in consequence of the favourable alteration, which took place soon after my preceding visit. At the end of November, I saw him cultivating his little garden.

I scarcely know how to add a comment on the nature and cure of this disease. The swelling, hardness, and pain attending so large a portion of the body, conveyed to Mr. Williams and myself, the appearance of scirrhous affection in the whole glandular system of the tumefied parts; and the use of mercurials, with that of neutral salts, might naturally be supposed as highly conducive to the removal of such a morbid affection; but certainly

a case of so much general disease and danger, portending a mortal event, so suddenly changing into convalescence and health, never before occurred to my recollection. One inference it affords, of our liability to error, in ascribing to remedies salutary powers which they never produced; for had the blister been applied when ordered, I should have supposed that this unexpected recovery had been hastened by the agency of this stimulating application.

METEOROLOGICAL JOURNAL,

From October 26, to November 25, 1808.

Days of Month.	Thermometer.				Barometer.	Weather.	
	9 A. M.	9 P. M.	Highest.	Lowest.	9 A. M.	Night.	Day.
Oct. 26	48	44	52	42	29·25	Rain	Rain
27	44	44	50	44	29·42	Fair	Ditto
28	44	45	50	43	29·39	Ditto	Ditto
29	44	44	49	42	29·66	Cloudy	Ditto
30	46	47	48	42	30·03	Ditto	Ditto
31	44	44	50	44	30·34	Fair	Cloudy
Nov. 1	48	47	50	46	30·26	Ditto	Ditto
2	48	48	51	46	30·15	Cloudy	Ditto
3	47	47	50	42	30·04	Ditto	Ditto
4	44	42	47	38	30·21	Rain	Fair
5	40	37	41	32	29·90	Fair	Ditto
6	34	36	42	38	29·88	Ditto	Ditto
7	42	43	43	42	29·70	Cloudy	Ditto
8	46	48	50	45	29·63	Rain	Rain
9	47	50	52	50	26·56	Cloudy	Ditto
10	48	48	52	48	29·74	Ditto	Fair
11	46	45	48	38	29·84	Fair	Rain
12	44	41	44	40	30·10	Cloudy	Fair
13	40	38	41	32	30·11	Ditto	Ditto
14	34	37	38	34	30·11	Fair	Ditto
15	40	47	49	42	29·98	Cloudy *	Ditto
16	50	51	54	49	29·61	Ditto †	Ditto
17	50	51	51	46	29·27	Rain ‡	Rain
18	46	43	48	33	28·80	Ditto §	Ditto
19	34	38	40	36	29·31	Cloudy	Ditto
20	40	46	50	45	29·73	Rain	Ditto
21	50	46	54	40	29·76	Fair	Fair
22	41	41	52	46	30·18	Ditto	Rain
23	47	50	52	46	30·12	Rain‖	Cloudy
24	46	45	50	44	30·19	Ditto	Ditto
25	48	51	52	46	30·00	Fair	Ditto

* 11, P. M. Rain and high wind.
† Ditto, ditto.
‡ Ditto, ditto.
§ Rain and fall of snow.
‖ Preceded by heavy mist.

ART. XVII.

CASE OF SMALL-POX.

Were a practitioner of the most extensive experience to see a delicate female, in her first pregnancy, of three months gestation, covered with a variolous eruption, scarcely prominent for the three first days, of a pale aspect, with here and there a purple spot, and suffering under incessant vomiting, he would instantly conclude, that the patient must fatally yield under such a complication of untoward symptoms.

Under these circumstances, in December last, I first attended Mrs. Ellis, aged about 23 years; there were, with the eruptive fever, great jactation and restlessness, a slight exudation of blood from the fauces; the pulse rapid and small after venesection, which she had undergone the preceding day. A blister likewise had been applied to the back, for at the commencement of indisposition there was a catarrhal affection, and no eruption being apparent, it was primarily considered as a fever from cold.

When the nature of the disease was clearly ascertained, the infusion of roses was immediately recommended. This was about the third, or beginning of the fourth day, and on the subsequent ones, Peruvian Bark in decoction, with extract of the same, warmed with the tincture of Snakeroot, and occasionally acidulated with the Vitriolic Acid, were substituted.

The body, which is usually constipated about this period of the eruption, was not so in the present case; or, if any disposition appeared, it was relieved by emollient enemas.

On the fourth day, a slight menorrhagia appeared, attended with a sense of bearing down forwards, and afforded a just suspicion of the probability of abortion taking place.

Opiates at no time agreed with the patient; and although she had very little rest, she began to lay in general more quiet than at the commencement of the eruption. She had experienced great anxiety respecting the event of taking the small-pox, but maintained, with the knowledge that she now laboured under that disease, great equanimity and composure of mind.

About the termination of the 5th day, the menorrhagia diminished, and the pustules on the face had acquired a favourable aspect of maturation, nor had any new purples appeared.

On the 6th day the menorrhagia increased, and on the evening of that day she was delivered of twins, by Mr. Clarke, of Tooley-street, whose

attention throughout greatly contributed to the preservation of the patient.

It might be observed here, that bottled porter was recommended about the 5th day of the eruption, which was retained on the stomach better than any other fluid, for the vomiting was almost constant, until abortion ensued.

This trying event, however, did not appear to retard any one favourable process of nature. The menorrhagia was moderate. The pustules maturated kindly, first on the face, and then on the trunk and arms, and ultimately on the lower extremities, as is usual in the small-pox.

From the history of the treatment of the patient, nothing novel can be deduced, as every professional man would probably adopt a similar conduct; but it affords a pleasing instance of the salutary result of medical perseverance under the most discouraging appearances, and a happy illustration of the motto—

"*Sperantem semper juvat Apollo.*"

Jan. 27, 1802.

PART II.

CORRESPONDENCE.

LETTER I.

Dr. Erasmus Darwin to Dr. Lettsom.

Dear Sir, *Derby, Oct.* 8, 1787.

I am much obliged to the gentlemen of your Medical Society for the honour they have done me in electing me one of their body, and am sorry I have not at present any thing worth communicating to them. I have indeed been lately much engaged in revising the translation of the Families of Plants of Linnæus, by a Botanical Society at Lichfield; but as this work is now out, I shall hope to be able to attend to some other investigations, at leisure hours.

The public are much obliged to you for the account of the Root of Scarcity, and for your public spirit, in distributing the seeds of these; if you have still any to spare, I shall be much obliged to you for two or three; or a few plants, to try them in my botanical garden.

I am, dear Sir, with great esteem,

Your obedient servant, E. Darwin.

P. S. I have got Curtis's Botanical Magazine, and cannot but wish the characters of the plants were translated in the concise English of the translation of the Families of Plants, and System of Vegetables, published by our Lichfield Society; which language is so near the original, and had Dr. Johnson's assistance in the settling of it. I am certain it would double or quadruple the sale of Mr. Curtis's Magazine. I have already recommended it to three ladies, who lament the want of Latin to understand it.

I have lately cured *two old men*, about seventy each, of the *ascites*, *joined with anasarca*, by half an ounce of that decoction of digitalis mentioned in my paper on that subject, in the Transactions of the College, given with an ounce of pepper-mint water, twice a day, for four or six days; and *a third*, of about the same age, with more repeated doses, for one day.

If your Society proposes questions, I should wish to offer, for one, "Whether the nervous fever of Huxham (or fever with debility, without petechiæ or sore throat, or flushed countenance, or pungent heat) be the same as the petechial fever, or jail-fever?" The former of these, viz. the nervous fever of Huxham, prevails much over all the country at this time; but is fatal to, I believe, hardly any as yet.

I thought proper to bleed two of these patients in the beginning, from violent cough and pain in the region of the stomach. The blood was very

sizey, and cupped. Moderate stimulating diet and medicine at first, *gradually* increased in respect to the quantity of urine as the disease advances, seems to support and save them all. Adieu.

LETTER II.

Baron HALLER to Dr. LETTSOM.

Sir, *Berne, Sept.* 28, 1774.

I am very thankful for the useful present wherewith you have honoured me, and for the kindness shewn to me in your letter of the 23d April. It came but very late to my hands, as there is almost no way to send some parcels from England to this country, but some merchants and traders who trade with ours. It is yet more difficult to send somewhat to England; it is near to impossibility, as we have no production in this country as might be got off in England; so I must beg all my friends in that island to find out somewhere on the continent, a friend or a merchant who'll accept and forward what I might send: in any city of Holland a merchant may do that office.

The Bibliotheca Medica is a work of such a vast extent, that I entertain very little hopes ever to see the end of it. The first part of the anatomical part is printed off; the second, that of chirurgery, will be ready for sale in six months; but there's the immense practical part, the natural history, to

do. Seeing such an enormous deal of labour before me, I can't possibly think of an index, which, considering the shortness of the style, would be almost as big again as the book itself. I should be very glad indeed if somebody would take that trouble upon him.

My old friend Scheiler looked on the small-pox as very near related to the plague, and thought of mercury for an antidote. It will be very happy for mankind if, by your means, we get a specific for such a destructive sickness. Inoculation has done very well with us, the cases excepted of dissolute blood, when it was fatal. Natural small-pox has been by fits very dangerous epidemics at Gottingen, and Professor and Aulic Counsellor Heyne will accept my parcel for me; so will, at Amsterdam, Haller and Company, negociants.

I am very sorry for the high freight this letter will cost you, but our post wont afranchise it further than Germany.

I'm, with a true sense of your deserts,

Sir, your most humble and obedient servant,

HALLER. *

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* This letter, which was written in English, is printed *verbatim et literatim*. The Editor did not feel himself at liberty to make any alterations, either in regard to the style or language of this intelligent foreigner; which observation will apply to a few of the subsequent letters. ED.

LETTER III.

Dr. Currie to Dr. Lettsom.

Dear Sir, *Chester, Sept.* 20, 1792.

I have had frequent experience of the utility of the digitalis in repressing the violence, and in diminishing the irritability of maniacs, and in procuring sleep, which, under such circumstances, is always the first step towards amendment. I have likewise employed this remedy with the best effects in that delirium which frequently occurs in typhus, and which is attended with great irritability and restlessness. In several cases of this kind I have seen the digitalis throw the patient into a composed sleep, when opiates in large doses, musk, camphor, and antispasmodics, had been employed without advantage. W. Currie.

LETTER IV.

Dr. Campbell to Dr. Lettsom.

Sir, *Lancaster, July* 3, 1784.

The sixth volume of the Medical Inquiries not having as yet come to my hands, I am not enabled to speak of what may be contained in it respecting any communication of mine to Dr. Fothergill on

the Influenza. Soon after it had been prevalent here, I communicated to the Doctor, by his desire, such particulars as I thought striking. I cannot find the original paper, but suppose any thing he thought worthy of notice has been inserted. In one of his letters to me he mentions his resolution to publish on this subject in the following manner: "I was prevented last summer from moulding the materials I had collected relative to the Influenza into a condition fit to be seen, but I owe it to my correspondents, and hope to live to discharge the obligation. Many, very many, have I seen, since I returned to town this autumn, in the last stages of consumptions, which derived their origin either from neglect or mismanagement this time twelvemonth." I am pleased to hear he has performed his promise. It would give me great pleasure if it were in my power to contribute any thing to render more complete the collection of the works or opinions of so valuable a physician as our late worthy friend Dr. Fothergill was, and which you have, with so laudable a zeal, undertaken. With this view I have been looking over my correspondence with him, which I find has turned mostly upon such cases as do not afford much matter for general publication; nor did his practice with respect to them differ materially from that which is generally adopted. In one letter, however, I find the following paragraph; it was in answer to one respecting his niece, Mrs. Kendall, of this

town, who was at that time threatened with an approaching phthisis (from which, however, she happily escaped); and, amongst other symptoms, was affected with a pain in her side, for which she had a blister applied immediately over the pained part:—

"If the blister could be removed to some other place, we should then be able to discover, with more certainty, whether the pain in her side is *really* abated; and to say freely what I think, it has long been my opinion, that if there is a pain in any part of the habit, I would always blister at a distance, and for two obvious reasons; first, that we should better learn the state of the diseased part; and secondly, that whether we intend the blister as an evacuation or a stimulus, the purposes will be better answered by a remote blister, than one upon the spot. To think of evacuating any peccant humour within the internal cavities, by a blister applied externally, is to me a matter not consonant to close reasoning. A distant application will perhaps more readily affect the *antipode*, if I may use the expression. I do not mean by this to draw a line of censure on the present occasion; I mean only to suggest it as a matter of future consideration; a prudent general will contrive to have the scene of action as far from the tenderest part as he can." In another he says, "Though I spent the summer in a very laborious manner, and got a severe cold in my return to

town, yet I have the satisfaction to find, I am not discouraged by business. I easily fall into my usual employ, and though the town is very empty, I am not idle. The ulcerated sore throat is very common, and carries off considerable numbers of children and others, who either neglect themselves or are improperly treated. At my first setting out with this distemper, I was induced from the best authorities to pursue the cordial regimen. Many of my brethren declared strongly in favour of the bark, as a better antiseptic than the spicy medicines. I followed them, but I think my first ideas were better founded, and I have quitted the bark for the more generous cordials. Be the mixture of *conf. cardiac.* never so absurd, I give it as a simple medicine, and I see it often do wonders. In young children it may be often given, a drachm to adults, and often with the addition of powdered root of contrayerva; this and wine I prefer to the bark, and for one good reason—children will take it better."

There was a case upon which he was consulted here, which was a very singular one of the most extreme emaciation and debility, in a young man of about 17, without any sensible evacuation, in which, as the patient grew thinner, the pulse became slower, so that at last it was not more than 35 strokes in a minute: after remaining in this state some time, he gradually got strength and flesh, and is now a healthy man. The Doctor

wished much for this case to be accurately drawn up, which I did; but by some unaccountable neglect omitted sending it to him; for this I am very sorry, as I find him more than once expressing his inclinations to that purpose. In one letter, he says, "I am glad to hear so favourable an account of young White; I wish the whole case could be drawn up, as I am sure it would contribute to establish the physician's hope, under the worst of circumstances; a matter of more moment than the generality are acquainted with. When despair of recovery occupies the physician, all invention ceases, but this hope, this endeavour, ought never to desert us. *Nil desperandum* would be my motto, if I had done any thing to deserve the insignia of merit." In another, he says, "I think it would be worth while to draw up a pretty circumstantial account of young White's case; and I think it may be made useful to the public; perhaps it would form no improper article in another volume of our observations. Perhaps I may add to it some reflections on the complaints attending young men in that stage of their lives; at least, a few circumstances that may have occurred to me." If my omission has been the occasion of the Doctor's not favouring the world with something on this particular case, I shall be indeed sorry. In the same letter he adds, "We have yet made very little progress towards another volume; and this most ruinous war, besides the

destruction it occasions, partly by occupying men's minds, and partly by interrupting communication, makes me foresee it will be long before we make up another."

As I can easily feel how anxious a person in your situation will be to be informed of as many anecdotes on the subject which is at present under consideration, as possible, so I can easily imagine you will suffer this to be a sufficient apology for any trouble I may have given you in the perusal of what may probably be of no consequence.

I am happy in this opportunity of renewing my acquaintance with Dr. Lettsom; and am, with much esteem, his very humble servant,

D. CAMPBELL.

LETTER V.

Dr. DOUGAN to Dr. LETTSOM.

Dear Sir, *Hampstead, April 27, 1795.*

I have met with a small specimen of the roots and stalks of the *Aristolochia Trilobata* in my trunk, which I send by the bearer. I have several pounds of it in my collection of West India remedies, which shall be at your service when I return. Bergius speaks very highly of it in his Materia

Medica. The late Dr. Korr, of St. Thomas, a very skilful and humane physician, has related to me several cases of its efficacy in malignant fevers, with petechiæ and marks of putrefaction. I have used it for several years past, instead of the *Serpentaria Virginiana*, and think it a preferable remedy. The aroma of this species of *Aristolochia* is much superior to that of the *Serpentaria*. I have a good specimen of the plant in flower, and there is a very good figure of it in Jacquin's Botanical Observations.

ROB. DOUGAN.

LETTER VI.

Dr. WALL to Dr. LETTSOM.

Sir, *Oxford, Oct.* 9, 1776.

Though probably entirely unknown to you, I cannot avoid adding my thanks to those which you have already received from the public, for your industry in the detection of the impositions of *Mayersbach*. The credulity of our countrymen is perfectly astonishing. He was consulted by a great many persons of the first eminence in the kingdom, not merely elevated by their titles or fortune above others, but by superior intellectual abilities. A great many of these knew, that for complaints diametrically opposite to each other he

presented the same green drops and red powder, sweet drops, absorbent powder, &c.; and though they at the same time knew the absurdity of supposing there can be any composition meriting the name of a *panacea*, yet did they submit their reason to the vague nonsensical assertions of an ignorant empiric, while, at the same time, they laughed at his jargon, and despised his affectation of science. How are these things to be explained? Is this absurdity peculiar to the inhabitants of this nation? If so, we need not wonder that foreigners should look upon us as a most extraordinary race of people, and say, as *Barillon* and *Madame de Sevignè* have said on another occasion, "These things will appear very surprizing, but England has no resemblance to other countries." It is somewhat curious to observe, how perfectly human nature resembles itself in different periods; the same impositions prevail and are received with the same respect, till they are detected and exposed; then they lie dormant a few years, are again revived with applause, and again laid open to the contempt which they merit. In your great and extensive medical reading, I have no doubt that you have seen a small book, entitled "*Epistolæ Medicinales variis occasionibus conscriptæ, Authore Ric^do. Carr, M. D. & Coll. Reg. Med. Lond. Socio. Londini, Impensis Stafford Anson ad insigne trium Columbarum in Cemeterio D. Pauli*, 1691." In the 17th epistle is a passage, so much connected

with the subject we are upon, that I hope you will excuse my impertinence in making a transcript from it. The question proposed is, "*An Graviditas ex Inspectione Urinæ prædici queat?*" *Dr. Carr* tells his correspondent, that, as in both sexes the nature of the blood is the same, and the diet the same which supplies that blood, the urine secreted from it must be the same, or nearly so, allowing for the different modes of life and other circumstances; but that the variations cannot be so regularly connected with the sex, as to give the most penetrating physician a ground for saying which of two quantities of urine was discharged by a man, which by a woman; much less to say which was discharged by a virgin, which by a pregnant woman. He then goes on to give his opinion of ouremancy in general, in the following words: "Qui 'Ουρομαντείας famam sibi aucupantur vel inani conjecturâ utuntur, quæ sunt semper incertæ, sæpiùs falsæ, quandoque dum par aut impar veræ perhibentur, fœliciter cedit quod 'Natura intellectûs humani magis afficitur affirmativis et activis quàm negativis et privativis.' (Verulam de augment. Scient. Lib. 5. Cap. 4.) Sin itaque fallax Uromantæ conjectura *vel semel* auspicato eventu famigeratur, plus increbrescit rumor, quàm si vigesies fallaciam prodit. Neque tanta est nostrorum Aruspicum infœlicitas, ut ne casu quidem unquam fiat, quod illi verum esse prædixerunt.

"*Sed quod crebrius iis in more est, callidâ*

quâdam versutiâ rem aliter exquirendo indagantes, notitiam suam Urinæ inspectioni falso adscribunt. Sic famulorum ministerio quasi aliud agentium, sæpe expiscantur ægrotantium circumstantias, quibus hero suo communicatis, Oraculis ipsis Delphicis certitudine contenderit: hoc fassi sunt magis ingenui, alii (quòd agitur de pane lucrando) tacere coguntur.

"Uxor quædam (cujus maritus de scalis deciderat et ægrotavit) arreptâ matulâ ad curiosum quendam hujus scientiæ artificem rectà contendit. Mulier querimoniis plena liberè exposuit mulierculis juxta assidentibus lugubrem adventûs sui rationem. (Diu expectandum est priusquam admittuntur: sic major accedat veneratio, sic fœliciùs captant occasionem servuli, tam curæ quàm quæstûs participes, ad ægrorum morbos ex ore suo dignoscendos; nec multâ calliditate opus est, quòd mulieres, præcipuè ubi querimoniis locus est, non admodum taciturnæ perhibentur.) Ancilla juxta ostium considens, victum infantulo ministrans, querelæ causam exaudivit; statim illacrimavit infans, ancilla intùs se recepit quasi ad ploratum illius abigendum, statim quicquid audivit hero exponit: post diutinam expectationem mulier vocatur, quæ maritum suum graviter decumbentem conquesta est. Uromanta sui similis, Non verbis opus est, dixit, ostende matulam: quâ porrectâ et lynceis illius oculis visa, maritum suum de scalis decidisse affirmare ausus est. Tam inopinatæ veritatis mentionem mulier præ gaudio vix ferre potuit, unde feracem admodum occasionem captat pro libitu suo comminisci,

et quòd iis istiusmodi dolis sese immiscere solenne est, præ cæteris ad comminiscendum ingeniosi inveniuntur: sic arreptâ matulâ, et artificiosissimâ quadam dexteritate agitatâ sibi tantùm (ut dixit) peculiari: Tanta, inquit, est peritia mea (quam imitari student plurimi, sed nemo hactenùs repertus est mihi comparandus. Admirantur universi scientiam meam uromanticam, et quid tantam admirationem mereatur? Non opus est, ut mihi laudes tribuam, cumulum dabit universa provincia.) quòd ex inspectione hujus urinæ pronunciare valeo ex quot scalis maritus tuus decidit:—ex undecim scalis decidit. Mulier respondet lapsum fuisse graviorem, quòd ex quindecim deciderat. Uromanta neutiquàm erubuit, quin statim rogat, num omne lotium adduxerat, quod maritus primâ vice excernebat? Negat mulier, quòd vitrum totum non contineret. Respondet alter, eo pacto quatuor scalæ sunt domi relictæ; decies enim juravit, tantùm undecim ex isto lotio conspiciendæ venerant. Mille istiusmodi exemplis liquidò constat, *quòd vel relationibus ab aliis communicatis, vel mendaciis quibusdam ingenuis, Protei speciem imitantibus, famam suam aucupatur hoc hominum genus,*" &c. &c.

The whole letter is worth transcribing, but it would be too long for the compass of my paper: as it is more than probable that you have seen the work, my impertinence may have tired you; I hope, however, your disposition to inform the ignorant, and undeceive your countrymen, will

persuade you to pardon this interruption of your more laudable pursuits. I wish you all the success which an attempt so highly praiseworthy demands, and will not prolong this letter unnecessarily:

Nè in publica commoda peccem,
Si longo sermone morer tua tempora.

I have only one request to add, that if this comes safe to your hands, you will be so obliging as to send me two or three lines to inform me of it, and to let me know that you pardon my presumption. Please to direct to Dr. Wall, Oxford; and whatever use you choose to make of this letter in your future attacks upon the impostor, I shall be happy to think I have been in the smallest degree an assistant to you.

I am, with great respect,

Your very humble servant,

MARTIN WALL, M. B.

LETTER VII.

Dr. CLARK to Dr. LETTSOM.

Dear Doctor, *Newcastle, Nov.* 30, 1784.

Some authors have taken notice of the milky appearance of the serum of the blood in diseases. Fourteen months ago I was sent for to visit a person who had vomited above three quarts of blood in a few hours. Since that period he has been bled four times: thrice the serum of the blood

exactly resembled thick milk; and the last time blood was taken, which was about fourteen days ago, the serum was of the consistence of thick cream, and equally white. The crassamentum has always been in small proportion to the serum, and of a loose texture. The patient is only 29 years of age, worked in one of the glass-houses here for several years, and at one time lived *intemperately*. He has been afflicted with hepatitis since I attended him; sometimes has laboured under bilious vomiting; and for weeks has had nausea and sickness in the morning, which reduced his flesh much. He is of a small stature, muscular, but lean. I intend making some experiments on his blood the first opportunity, for I am by no means satisfied that this appearance in the serum is owing to the absorption of fat, as Mr. Hewson alledges.

Believe me to be, with much esteem,

Yours, &c. JOHN CLARK.

LETTER VIII.

Dr. WITHERING to Dr. LETTSOM.

Dear Sir, *Birmingham, Aug.* 19, 1788.

The Influenza has been *very* prevalent for three or four weeks past, and still goes on spreading rapidly, both in town and country. As heretofore, I have seen none in danger but the aged, and those greatly debilitated by previous disease. In general

it is so slight as not to require medical aid, and would hardly be distinguished from a common cold, did not its diffusion demonstrate its infectious nature.

The scarlatina anginosa has run its course, and is nearly become extinct. I am not quite satisfied about this Proteus-like disease. Many have died of it so early as the third day of the attack; some within sixty hours of the seizure, before the friends of the patients were alarmed. In these cases debility has been the leading character.

I remain, Dear Sir, with great respect,

Your obliged friend,

W. WITHERING.

LETTER IX.

Dr. ASH to Dr. LETTSOM.

Dear Doctor, *Bond-street, June* 17, 1789.

I was summoned in the night of Friday last to a son of the Honourable Mr. Howard, whose daughter was my patient in a very deplorable small-pox, nearly three years ago. This child was complete nine months at that period; and the account sent was, that it was seized suddenly with a violent convulsive spasm, with very earnest requests to make all possible expedition. It lay ill at Ashted, two miles beyond Epsom. I got there about midnight, and to my great surprize

found evident marks of a mortification being commenced in the bowels, though, till the moment of this alarming seizure, it never had had any apparent illness since its birth. You will readily imagine that all my efforts would be vain: it lived 48 hours; and though besides stimulants and purgatives by the mouth, 16 enemata of every species, from saline clysters to tobacco in infusion, in fume and assafœtida ones were given, no stools whatever could be procured. The case you have published occurred to my thoughts very frequently with dismay; and the finest, largest, and most beautiful child I ever saw expired on Sunday night. On my request the parents consented to have the body opened; and with Mr. Home's assistance, whom I took with me to Ashted yesterday morning, the body was opened, and we found the very same kind of extraordinary intussusception Mr. Whately, under your correction, has described in the Philosophical Transactions, in the year 1786. Part of the ileum, cæcum, and its appendages; the colon ascendens, the whole of the upper arch, and the upper part of the descendens, were all contained in the sigmoid flexure. As Mr. Home took away the diseased part, a more minute examination of them will be carefully made. The most astonishing part of the case is, that the child had never suffered any uneasiness during the gradual process of the intussusception, more than three feet in length, during some months in continuance; perhaps till the moment of its stran-

gulation, and the irremediable mortification that must inevitably succeed. I could not resist giving you this early intelligence; and shall ever remain,

With great respect,

Your faithful humble servant,

JOHN ASH.

LETTER X.

Dr. PULTENEY to Dr. LETTSOM.

Dear Sir, *Blandford, June 22*, 1789.

It is much against my own feelings that I find myself so undeserving a correspondent, when I know so well how much benefit I might receive from your kind communications. But, in fact, I am so much engaged by my *necessary* avocations, that I have less time every year that now comes over me to attend to the correspondence even of my earliest connexions. I thank you for the copy of the Thermometer *; I wish it was put up in every family, and in every public-house in Dorset; a part of England where the abuse of spirits kills an amazing number of people yearly.

I have remarked of late amongst us, especially, I think, since the wet weather set in, a very unmanageable disease; which I might not improperly call a *pleuritis maligna*. I have more than once seen the disease rise before. Young men are seized with the symptoms of a pleurisy, which

* A Moral and Physical Thermometer, or a Scale of the Progress of Temperance and Intemperance. ED.

remain for a few days, when the fever becomes (sometimes suddenly, at others more gradually) putrid, and the patient sinks. I remark, that it has most usually seized those who have been accustomed to live too freely, and has followed a debauch, or violent exercise, with injudicious exposure to cold.

I am, Dear Sir, with great respect,

Yours, R. PULTENEY.

LETTER XI.

Dr. WRIGHT to Dr. LETTSOM.

Dear Sir, *Bristol, May* 27, 1789.

Permit me gratefully to acknowledge your obliging present. Your Thermometer entertained and diverted me. It gave me great pleasure to find myself occupying such a high rank as fifty in your scale; and if a regard be paid to the quantity as well as the quality of my liquor, perhaps I may justly claim my station very near to sixty, since half a pint satisfies my desires, and, I apprehend, preserves me from being so dull and heavy as a larger portion would render me.

Some of the advantages which you have represented as connected with my station in the moral and physical thermometer I have long enjoyed; but these, I am sensible, are not inseparably connected with it; and I am far from depending upon the continuance of them, much less of life itself, to old age; for though my father at 92

enjoys his faculties, and has an exquisite relish of social pleasures, yet he has survived half his children, who were, I believe, temperate as well as he.

Your Thermometer would make one of the most useful pieces of furniture in every house, and especially in every tavern and public house. But though the Legislature may have virtue enough to abolish the Slave trade, yet I apprehend they would be shocked at the rashness of any member, who should move for a bill to oblige every vintner and publican to hang it up in a conspicuous part of their houses. The maxim of a celebrated member of our fraternity (Mandeville), that private vices are public benefits, seems a favourite of politicians, when confined to sensual vices; and our financiers would think the nation ruined if temperance should become universal.

The conviction that intemperance is the parent of diseases, no doubt has its foundation in truth; and one would wish it to be fixed in the minds of all, as an excellent preservative from excess. It must, however, be held with some latitude, and especially when applied to some particular disorders. This seems to me to be the case with regard to Palsy. To prove that intemperance has a direct tendency to produce this disease, two things seem requisite: viz. to calculate the proportion which the intemperate bear to the temperate in general, and likewise the proportion which the intemperate paralytics bear to the

temperate afflicted with the palsy; but perhaps neither of these has been done with accuracy; and indeed the former is very difficult, if not impossible: nor, it must be confessed, would this be absolutely necessary, if it should, upon careful examination, be found, that the generality of paralytic patients had been guilty of intemperance. To ascertain this, however, the observations of several practitioners should be compared. Justice requires me to vindicate the characters of most paralytics, who have come under my notice; indeed I do but recollect two, who could be suspected of bringing the palsy upon themselves by their vices.

You will, I trust, excuse my freedom, and believe me to be, with great respect,

Your obliged, &c. JOHN WRIGHT.

LETTER XII.

Dr. HOFFMAN to Dr. LETTSOM.

Dear Sir, *Edinburgh, Oct.* 1, 1792.

I am very much obliged to you for your obliging letter, and for the information and description you have given me in respect of the angina or cynanche trachealis; and I beg you will excuse me, when I take the liberty to give you a very short account how this disease mostly appears in my native country *.

* Germany, I believe. ED.

1. Angina inflammatoria vera. Local bleeding in the vena jugularis, or under the tongue, in the vena sublingualis, are of the best success; gargling, with a decoction of *flor. sambuc. cum nitro puro*; observing a vegetable diet; keeping open the body with antiphlogistic physic, will be sufficient for the cure.

2. Angina putrida. Certainly this disease can be called the first and second day of its origin, angina inflammatoria putrida. Here the velum palatinum, the tonsillæ, and musculi pharyngæi, are at first of reddish white colour, but soon they become a brown reddish colour; and the parts generally are not so much enlarged in the infl. angina. Even the pain by swallowing is not so violent as in the before-mentioned. The pulse is not full, quick, and 90, 100, 110 strokes in a minute; tongue dry; patient very low. In this disease bleeding will kill the patient; and I have seen it done in two cases, and both patients died two days after bleeding. The blood was entirely dissolved; all the particles after let out of the vein became separated in a few minutes; and by dissecting, the uvula, tonsillæ, and neighbouring parts, are found in a sphacelated state. But no bleeding; and instead of that, gargling, with a decoct. of *angustura*, or of *rorismarin sylvest. cum camphor.* the *ext. Cort. Peruv. aquosum*, given in large doses; or a strong decoction of angustura bark, with *naphtha vitriol*, will often save the life of the patient, and if given soon prevent the bad

symptoms. Benefit of fresh air and a cool situation, is to be advised.

3. Angina spasmodica. Here the uvula, tonsillæ, and musculi are not very much swelled, not much red, and swallowing takes place with less pain, and a pain origined from a rigidity. We believe that being in cellars, or living in wet places, produces this disease, or interrupted perspiration. If plethora, bleeding is necessary; if not, a warm bath, and internally given the *ipecacuanha*, two grains every two hours, and keep a gentle perspiration, will produce the cure; for gargling I found exceedingly good, ℞ *Sem. Cydonior.* ʒss *solv. in aq. bullient.* ℥x *adde. Laud. lyquid. Sydenh. gtt.* xxx, *or* 50; and by this treatment I often saw the patient cured.

4. Angina trachealis, or *membranacea*, is not a very common disease in our country; and I know that only children of eight till twelve or fifteen years, and seldom we find people of middle years, or old people, subject to this disease. I have seen it in several children between eight and twelve years; and I found the tonsillæ and pharynx like covered with a white substance; sometimes I have seen cough it up, and I found it very much like the coagulated membrane upon the blood; what we called before crusta inflammatoria: once I found it very tense. I found blisters here particularly useful, and internally, in the beginning, a very weak solution of *tart. emetic, antim.* physic—and so I saw several recovered. Expectorants are

certainly here more useful; and I saw used, with good success, the *syr. de Althæe* ʒiß *Oxym. Scill* ʒß and *vinum antim.* gtt. xv, every hour a tea-spoon-ful; but I often saw some die of this disease. The symptoms were not very clear to believe them so dangerous; but by dissecting the whole trachea; even some time till in the branches of the lungs were covered with this white membrane; but nothing particular more was to be seen.

I remember once, that the *flores zinci*, given in the beginning of this disease, and blisters on the whole neck, cured it very well, which I only know by seeing the recip. after curing; but I don't know how far this disease has been.

I think we want a great deal more to point out how this white membrane, which covers the parts, is produced; and how it comes that this disease is so often mortal, without particular bad symptoms, and how to distinguish it instantly in the beginning. I am, with gratitude and respect,

Your obliged friend,

HOFFMAN.

LETTER XIII.

From the same.

Dear Sir, *Edinburgh, Dec.* 1, 1792.

Dr. Hosack, physician, of New York, assured me, that they use there, in the cynanche trachealis inflammatoria, calomel, after bleeding, with the best

success; and that the common people, instead of that, use the onion juice with success.

Give me leave to recommend to your attention a new treatment for the tinea capitis of children, which I know, from practical knowledge, has very often succeeded; and so by adults.

The patient is purged every sixth or eighth day with jalap and calomel, o. q. s. An ointment is rubbed in upon the head daily, twice, till the scurfs are gone away. ℞. *Ol. Olivar. opt.* ℥ij *Extract. saturni* ʒß and *Pulv. Gum. Camph.* ℈ij. When the scurfs are gone away, the head is daily washed with a solution of *sal vegetabil. alcal.*; which, soluted with water, as strong as the patient can bear it without pain; if too strong, it will inflame the parts.

A treatment of white swellings, in the beginning, which I saw succeed very often.—If much pain and inflammation, the patient must be bled from 14 to 16 ℥. After this, a solution of tartar emetic is given every forenoon, not to produce vomiting, but nausea; this is continued two or three weeks: a plaster is applied over the white swellings— ℞. *Bilis Bovis nori* ℥vij *ol. nucis* ʒij *sal commune* ℥i *m. f. Empl.* A regular circular bandage ought to be applied over the knee, as tight as the patient can bear it. This application will keep the knee continually moist and perspirable, and so very often resorption of the extravasated lymph takes place; by the bandage the parts are supported, which certainly must be of use to restore

to their former state. And so gentle emetics will bring on an increased action in the vessels, consequently promote resorption. I wish that this treatment may answer as well the purpose as I have seen it answer very often.

The *assafœtida* has been recommended as a very good physic, given in caries of the bones for exfoliation; and some authors have assured the good effect of it; it ought, therefore, to be tried farther, if it does produce this effect or not. That this remedy enters very easy in the massa humorum is to be seen, that if when given in a wound for two or three days the matter will smell about it.

I am, Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

HOFFMAN.

LETTER XIV.

From the same.

Dear Sir, *Edinburgh, March* 3, 1793.

It is very difficult to point out the true rabies canina, because there is another disease to which dogs are much subject (occasioned by violent cold in the winter), called tetanus; or even this tetanus will follow after contusions and wounds of them; and certainly this disease resembles very much rabies canina. *f. ex.* the dogs have no appetite; they do not drink water; they like to bite, or at

least like to avoid, people; they like to remain in a corner of the room; have a stiffness in all the muscles of the neck, &c. and so they die at last. Now here the only sign is, to distinguish the disease, that the bite does not produce hydrophobia. Some authors have observed, that the dogs even get this disease sometimes from teething, &c.; consequently I think it is of the utmost importance not to kill a dog instantly, which is thought mad, but to confine it till it is certainly discovered that he is really mad.

In respect of the diagnostic signs of men, I think it is as much difficult, at first, to determine if the men or women have been bit from a mad dog or not; and I think a very careful examination and observation will sometimes fail even to point it out, till the disease is broken out with all its characteristical signs.

I generally think to divide this disease in two kinds—hydrophobia *vera*, which only can be produced from the bite of a mad dog; and in hydrophobia *spuria*, which can be either produced from the fear of a bite from a dog, who is not mad at all, or from any other disease which takes place in the human body, and which produces often similar symptoms to a true hydrophobia.

If a disease, in all its symptoms, is combined with another original disease, we might call it, I think, hydrophobia *symptomatica*, which is often combined with febrile diseases. Farther, in injuries of the nerves, we very often meet with symp-

toms similar to the hydrophobia (even from a local injury of a nerve), which, however, comes very near under the class of tetanus. And, I think, the name would be hydrophobia *spasmodica*; and a number of examples are related where opium and musk have cured this disease.

The cure of the hydrophobia *spuria* is now in my country established as the most infallible, with administering the Belladonna. Even to prevent the disease it is given instantly; and so many instances have occurred, since a space of ten years, where this remedy certainly proved beneficial.

External applications are, washing the wound directly, with water two parts, and one part of vinegar, or with a solution of vegetable alkali. Scarifications and cupping glasses are applied, and some have a great confidence immediately to apply a *vesicatorium* over the whole and neighbouring places, where the bite appears.

The manner how this poison is taken into the human body, we have yet not quite ascertained; and I am very much inclined to think, that according to the different symptoms, and according to the different times in which these symptoms are produced, it must take a different course for its admission in the body. Nobody can deny that the bite of a mad dog produced symptoms of hydrophobia one, two, three, six, eight months after it happened; and, if we may trust authors, even a year, or some years, after the accident, if it is introduced in the human body by the lymphatics.

I ask why are the lymphatics not always infected in this disease, and why is the effect of its being taken in not always equal in producing symptoms? If it is propagated by the nerves (as some say) why are the spasmodic affections not produced equally quick and mortal? and why are the spasmodic symptoms only conveyed to certain nerves, and not in general?

I am, dear Sir, your most obedient servant,

HOFFMAN.

LETTER XV.

Dr. KIRKLAND to Dr. LETTSOM.

Dear Sir, *Ashby-de-la-Zouch, Apr.* 4, 1793.

You have my very sincere thanks for the Essay on the Bite of a Mad Dog by Dr. Mease, which, by accident, did not come to hand till within these few days. I have had much pleasure in reading of it. He has taken great pains in collecting together, and properly reprobating, the different opinions which required reprobating, on this subject; but unless oil, or large and repeated doses of elicampane root, and dressing the enlarged wound with balsam of Peru, prove an antidote, I am very fearful we have not yet made any progress towards curing the hydrophobia.

It is happy the prophylactic treatment is more certain: for I verily believe, if all the wounded parts

* Celsus.

can be removed in due time by excision, the patient will be safe. It has happened so seven times in my practice; and there are several cases, you know, lately published, which bear testimony in favour of this proceeding. There is uncertainty, however, we know, in drawing conclusions from such premises; and yet the rectitude of the practice is so self-evident, that I wonder we should look out for another. It was upon this rock that Celsus split, it being impossible, from his account, to know whether cupping, cauterizing, or bleeding, ought to have preference; and thus people became confused in their proceedings.

Having never heard of any fact capable of supporting the experiment, we do not attend to washing, but cut out the piece thoroughly, as soon as may be; and I have not any doubt but the practice of Hippocrates, of burning with a hot iron, would be effectual, if properly done; for it will often be necessary to extend their effects beyond the skin and cellular membrane, to which parts this operation seems by some to be confined. Either of these ways is more certain than a caustic, and I have not much doubt but the knife would have succeeded where the caustic failed.

A large and long continued discharge from the bitten part, is also yet, I see, considered as a prophylactic, and the practice is supported by the cases recorded by Dr. Fothergill; but whoever looks these cases over will have reason to think that the girl who recovered was bitten through the

stocking; and that her master, who died, was bitten on the bare leg. The troublesome ulcer which followed, was most probably owing to the girl being of a bad habit of body; nor have I any idea that a discharge from the wound is more likely to prevent the effects of the bite, than the running of the sore, which is made by the insertion of variolous matter, is capable of preventing the small-pox; and surely there never was such untried ridiculous nonsense published, as blowing away the virus conveyed into the wound by gun-powder. All these things lead us from the point which ought to be aimed at, and it is high time they should be kicked out of doors.

You will see my opinion on the connection betwixt hydrophobia and tetanus in a memoir I shall soon send you on spasmodic irritability; and for this reason it is unnoticed in this place, though I cannot forbear giving my hearty consent to the choice that has been made in preferring tonics to the anti-phlogistic treatment. But it is high time to give over, lest my long-winded epistle should tire you out, and prevent you from writing to me any more.

I am, dear sir, with great esteem,

Your most humble servant,

THO. KIRKLAND.

LETTER XVI.

Mr. GARDNER to Mr. JACKSON.

Sir, *Streatham, March 20,* 1809.

March 6, between eight and nine o'clock in the evening, I was sent for to see Master Jackson. He complained of having a very sore tongue. On examining the parts, I found the tongue affected with two or three small ulcerations at its apex, and swollen; in some parts furry, in other parts its papillæ very red, and in an extremely irritable state; two or three small ulcerations on the back part of the roof of the mouth; fauces a little flushed; considerable discharge of saliva; breath very fetid and disagreeable; pulse quick and irritable; had had, at times, shiverings, and disposition to irregular fever; the constitution evidently under a considerable degree of irritation: prescribed a gargle of *infus. rosæ* ʒiv *pulv. g. arabic* ʒi *nitri purif gr.* x, *sæpe utend.* ℞ *infus. senn.* ʒx *magnes. vitr.* ʒij *ft. haust. mane sumend.* 7th. Passed a very restless night; tongue appeared the same; gargle had produced great irritation and pain; leave out the *nitre*, and diminish the quantity of *acid. vitr. dil.* to under the proportion *for inf. ros.* ℞. *aq. amm. ac.* ʒiij *sp. æth nitr. gtt.* x *vin. antim. t. gtt.* v. *mist. camph.* ʒi *ft. haust. hord somni sumend.* 8th. Appearances the same; suffers much from the irritation; disposition to

costiveness; ℞. *decoct. cinchon.* ℥j *acid. mur. gtt.* ii. *tinct. cinchon.* ℥j *pulv. rhei gr.* v. *ft. haust. quater die sumend.* 9th. Much the same; irritation and restlessness considerable; continue the cinchona, after opening the bowels with the senna draught, being costive.

From the very considerable number of cases, extremely similar to this, that I have had this year and last, I can feel no difficulty in giving my opinion as to its nature. In all the cases that I have had, the sore tongue has been attended with an irregular kind of typhus fever; in many cases the soreness of the tongue was the only symptom that preceded the fever, and it would in some continue for some time before any thing of fever could be detected; but in most cases, sooner or later, fever did take place, and that was decidedly of a typhus kind. Most of these cases have been tedious, particularly where the exhibition of the *cinchona* was delayed; but ultimately they have all done well, and I have had a very considerable number. I have constantly found that an early and free use of the bark, acids, red port, strong broths, and a light nutritious diet, have produced the most beneficial effects, and cured my patients. With respect to your son's having taken mercury, I should presume after the perusal of this, the medical gentlemen will relinquish the idea. As your son had the sore tongue before I saw him, one would think that must do away very much the idea of any mistake having been made

in the preparation of his medicines. Indeed I am so confident as to the accuracy of the preparing and mixing my medicines, that I cannot allow even of such an idea being entertained. If the system is charged with mercury, you'll find if he has any silver about him, it will blacken it, and take off its silvery appearance.

I am, &c.

W. GARDNER.

LETTER XVII.

From the same to Dr. LETTSOM.

Sir, *Streatham, March 25, 1809.*

I am much obliged to you for your polite letter, and am very happy in finding, that the treatment which I pursued in Master Jackson's case meets your approbation. With respect to this affection of the tongue, in answer to your questions, I have remarked it to be confined chiefly to children. I have seen it go through whole families of children without any of the parents being in the least affected. Within these two last years I have met with a considerable number of cases of the complaint; it appeared chiefly as a local affection, and sometimes to be occasioned by some degree of heat in the stomach and *primæ viæ*. In these cases, cooling astringent applications to the part, with the use of rhubarb and *sal polychrest* internally, in moderate doses, once or twice a day, effected a

cure. I recollect only two cases worth noticing in adults, which came under my care about two years ago: one occurred in a woman aged about 45 years; had been a very temperate liver, and enjoyed hitherto a good state of health; but this case I considered very different in its nature from those before-mentioned. I am of opinion it was occasioned by repelled erysipelas. She had been liable to repeated attacks of erysipelatous inflammation in the face for some few years, for which she had been usually in the habit of applying a blister on the neck; but in the last attack, meeting with a medical gentleman, he applied *ag. lytharg. acet. c.* which had the effect of curing the inflammation; but shortly after the tongue became affected, and which got to such a distressing state, that she sent for me to see her. Upon examining the part, I observed the tongue to be considerably enlarged, both in thickness and breadth, of a florid red colour, like raw meat; she said she suffered continually with it, but generally about the middle of the night the pain and burning heat became intolerable. Cooling astringent gargles gave but very temporary, if any, relief. Cooling saline purgatives, little relief. Her constitution being much debilitated from the great irritation of the complaint, and inability to take nourishment, gave the bark, but it did no good; on the contrary, it did harm; I therefore altered my plan; took away six ounces of blood from the arm; the blood was covered with the buff coat; it afforded considera-

ble relief for a time; gave *pulv. antimon. gr.* iv. *omni nocte;* applied a blister to the neck, and applied leeches to the tongue, which afforded much relief, and altered the appearance of the tongue, which, from an uniform florid red, appeared only so in some parts, and in those parts she complained of the chief pain; the other parts were of a paler red. Repeated the leeches three or four times, and continued on the same plan, which, although I had not the gratification of seeing effect a cure, yet it afforded much relief, inasmuch as her complaint became much more tolerable, and she was able to endure it pretty well.

The other case was very similar to this, but not in any degree so formidable; it was cured by *pulv. antimon. gr.* iv. *omni nocte;* which, by exciting a tolerably profuse perspiration, prevented that distressing heat, pain, &c. which usually came on after being in bed three or four hours. Within these two years inflammatory diseases have been less prevalent about here. Typhus has been gradually creeping in amongst us. About the autumn of last year, I had several cases of fever in families of children, beginning with sore tongue, with symptoms the same as those of Master Jackson, attended with synocha and ending in typhus. In the workhouse, which I attend, about Christmas last, typhus fever broke out in the girls' ward. Six cases were ushered in with sore tongues, in appearances the same as Master Jackson's. Two of these cases

proceeded to attack the tonsils, and produced cynanche maligna. One case began with swelled submaxillary glands, inflammation of the integuments, livid colour, and proceeded to abscess and sloughing of the integuments. Two cases, attended with cynanche parotidea; and the others without any local affection, except violent pain in the side, during the first stages. Thus all recovered; but those attended with affections of the tongue were extremely slow in their recovery. Diarrhœa was a very common occurrence in this complaint; but I do not recollect meeting with much sickness or vomiting. I do not recollect seeing any cases prove fatal.

I am, Sir, very respectfully,

Your most obedient servant,

W. GARDNER.

LETTER XVIII.

T. HENRY, F.R.S. to Dr. LETTSOM.

Manchester, July 15, 1774.

Receive my grateful acknowledgments, dear Sir, of the receipt of your Medical Memoirs, a work which both reflects great honour upon the ingenious and benevolent author, and will be of distinguished utility in the improvement of the

practice of physic. Your plan seems well formed, and you certainly merit the thanks of mankind, for daring to quit the narrow limits within which custom and timidity have too long confined the professors of the healing art. The cases you have given of the use of mercury in the small-pox, deserve great attention; and your treatment of putrid fevers is founded on the most rational principles.

I must say, that as far as my experience has reached, I have observed good effects from the use of the *cicuta* in the hooping cough. I had several cases last spring, in which my little patients received apparent benefit from it. The extract was of my own preparing, and evaporated in B. M., after the manner proposed by Dr. Percival; and the *fol. cicut.* had been carefully dried. You mention a gentleman having found, near Gravesend, a species of the plant, which appeared to be stronger, and was more efficacious, than any he had before met with. May not this variety often occur, and may it not, in some degree, account for the very different relations we have received of the effects of this medicine?

Some not altogether incurious facts have lately occurred to me in the further investigation of magnesia, but I want to ascertain them more exactly.

While I have laboured under the load of all the obloquy that malice and revenge could heap upon my head, the pleasing marks of approbation, and

testimonies of friendship, which I have received from you, and many gentlemen of the Faculty, whose good opinions I highly value, have been great matter of consolation to me; and I trust I shall never be deterred from doing my duty to the public, while I am favoured with the countenance of men of science and candour.

It would give me great pleasure to have an opportunity of paying my respects to you at Manchester, and of personally evincing the respect and esteem with which I am, dear Sir,

Your obliged and affectionate servant,

T. HENRY.

LETTER XIX.

From the same.

Dear Sir, *Manchester, Nov.* 8, 1775.

I have lately received a very remarkable case of the efficacy of calcined magnesia in an obstinate bilious case, attended with severe colicky pains, hectic symptoms, loss of appetite and strength, costiveness, and vomitings. This is strongly in confirmation of the hint I advanced, from experiment, of the probability of that medicine being useful, though generally condemned in bilious disorders.

In some experiments which were made by my desire here on heated rooms, but at which I was

prevented from being present by a sudden call into the country, a very extraordinary phenomenon occurred. By the great degree of heat, two thermometers were broken, so that the bottom of the bulbs fell out, notwithstanding which, the mercury retained its situation, nor lost the form of the bulb till violently shaken. A thin pellicle had formed on its surface, which seemed to suspend it. The tubes were full to the top, but the bulbs did not break till the thermometers were attempted to be removed. I mentioned this circumstance to Sir J. Pringle lately, who desired to be fully informed of it, and I have transmitted to him accounts drawn up by the two gentlemen who were evidences of the fact, and whose veracity is indisputable.

Yours, &c.

T. HENRY.

LETTER XX.

From the same.

Dear Sir, *Manchester, Sept.* 30, 1778.

I have seen Dr. Hulme's last publication on the use of fixed air in calculous cases, &c. His manner of impregnating water with it is oftentimes very convenient, but may it not be frequently objectionable, on account of the quantity of neutral salt, which is given at the same time, being of a purgative quality? I own, Mr. Bewley's form,

viz. neutralizing the alkali by the mephitic acid, seems to me preferable. The Doctor has recommended the exhibition of milk, impregnated in the same manner with fixed air, in consumptions, &c.; but considering the great tendency that milk has to run off by the intestinal canal, in many cases, surely this method is not equal to the common one. Dr. Hulme does not seem to recollect, that milk, impregnated simply with fixed air, had been proposed by me as a substitute for asses milk, in a letter to Dr. Priestley, published in the Appendix to his 3d volume on air. Clarified milk whey also seems a liquor well adapted for this purpose: when freshly impregnated it has an agreeable pungency. After being kept closely corked for ten days, it sparkled and frothed as strongly as bottled cyder, and had acquired but a small degree of acidity.

An old gentleman in this town frequently discharges large fragments of a calculus; and I had desired him to make use of a few bottles of Mr. Bewley's mephitic julep, which I prepared for him. This, however, he neglected, and taking a journey which hurried him much, he brought on a most severe bilious vomiting and looseness, and was so reduced, that his recovery was despaired of by the gentlemen who attended him. In this distress he recollected the aërial water, and taking a draught of it, and afterwards some lemonade, he found it so grateful to his stomach, that though he had hitherto rejected every thing he had taken, he retained this with ease, and was almost wholly supported, for

several days, by repeated draughts of it, till his stomach became so firm as to bear other nutriment. Yours, &c. T. HENRY.

LETTER XXI.

From the same.

Manchester, Oct. 8, 1786.

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Mr. Hall, last week, introduced into the world a double fœtus. The thorax of the one being joined, at right angles, to the side of that of the other. They were as large as most children at the birth, had two perfect heads, four arms, and three legs, that of the more imperfect one containing some parts of the leg which was wanting, mixed among its proper bones. T. HENRY.

LETTER XXII.

Dr. VAUGHAN to Dr. LETTSOM.

Dear Sir, *Leicester, July 27*, 1783.

You made me a very acceptable present when you sent me your publications respecting our late valuable friend Dr. Fothergill. I honoured him, when alive, for his candour and great medical discernment; and as the member of a medical community, I hold in grateful esteem the memory of

a physician, to whom our profession is much indebted. Your work, Sir, in my opinion, is a chaste piece of biography, in which is displayed an intimate knowledge of the character you wish to transmit to posterity, and which, without the aid of the least panegyric, must appear amiable in whatever point of view it is contemplated. My correspondence with the Doctor was not very frequent; but whenever it did take place, it was always with advantage to myself. Soon after the Influenza had run its course last time, Dr. Fothergill applied to me, as well as to many other physicians, for any observations I had made with regard to the disease; intending, by a comparison of opinion, to establish a most satisfactory method of treating that epidemic, whenever it shewed itself again. I sent him the result of my observations, with an example of its terminating fatally in the cynanche trachealis; for this he gave me his thanks, assuring me at the same time he should take an early opportunity of laying the observations he had collected, together with his own, before the public. In your book I do not observe any notice taken of this intention: did he alter it? or what became of his papers?

There is surely a peculiarity in the species of fever you had the goodness to send me an account of, protracting itself to such a length as 35 or 40 days: it certainly agrees very much with Huxham's Febris Nervosa, which, notwithstanding Dr. Cullen, is a very different disease to the Febris

Carcerum, in its attack, progress, termination, and cure.

A light species of the angina maligna has made its appearance in this part of the country, among some few individuals; and which may reasonably be expected to increase, if the present state of the air continues.

I have, for some years past, been in the habit of employing, in obstinate paralysis, *cantharides* in substance; combined with volatile salt and *gum guaiacum*; beginning with half a grain of the former, and fifteen or twenty grains of the latter, taken twice a day, or three times in 24 hours, increasing the quantity gradually, in proportion as the frame bears its stimulus. To a young man of the age of 23, with a complete paraplegia, a total abolition of all mental power, with obstinate constipation, and whose urine came away involuntary, I gave a grain of the flies, half a drachm of volatile salt, and half a scruple of guaiacum once in six hours. After four or five doses the system was heated, and great inquietude accompanied it: the medicine was therefore laid aside for 16 or 18 hours: dilution with milk and water was recommended, which, as always happens, removed these troublesome symptoms. The patient returned to the use of it again, repeating it less frequently; and by this, and this alone, obtained a perfect cure; recovering, but by very slow degrees, his mental faculties, long after his corporeal ones were restored. It was observable in this patient that a total obliteration of whatever

he had learnt years before, took place: insomuch that he was obliged to learn his alphabet again. Since the above case I have given it to a variety of patients, and often, I think, with very great advantage; but in that paralysis which sometimes attacks the neck of the bladder, and where much might be expected from it, I have been disappointed in every case; though I had a boy, who could take, without the least inconvenience in 24 hours, nine grains of cantharides in divided doses.

I am, Sir, Your very obliged servant,

J. VAUGHAN.

LETTER XXIII.

From the same.

Dear Sir, *Leicester, August* 23, 1786.

You will readily allow, I dare say, that instances of what we call the sea scurvy, occur but seldom on shore, and especially in the interior parts of our island; yet in the course of five and twenty years I have seen four, the last of which occurred very lately. In this instance blood issued from the gums and fauces constantly, of a sooty colour, the body was covered with petechiæ and vibices, and on the third day a pain in the loins made me suspect that the same disease would shew itself in the kidney: this it actually did in the course of the night. What came from the kidneys and bladder during the night, in quantity about

three half pints, was perfect cruor, which did not separate into crassamentum and serum, but resembled soot diffused in water, more than any thing else. Bark and alum given with the utmost freedom, the mineral fluids, fixed air, all taken in large quantities, with a nourishing antiseptic diet, made no impression upon this disease; but three pints of juice fresh expressed from oranges and lemons, taken in 24 hours, wrought an amazing change, and in four days put an entire stop to the disease, and the patient continues perfectly well.

Yours, &c. J. VAUGHAN.

LETTER XXIV.

Mr. WILMER to Dr. LETTSOM.

Sir, *Coventry, July* 25, 1796.

A surgeon of this town died lately, after a variety of sufferings, which were attributed to water in the chest or pericardium. But upon dissection no water was found in his chest. In the right auricle of the heart was found a fleshy substance, which probably was the cause of death. This case resembled that published by Dr. Chester; it also proves that the late Dr. Hunter was mistaken when he asserted that these concretions were the effect, not the cause of death.

A very worthy member of your society, John Cash, is at present under my care, for a difficulty

of deglutition. I informed him yesterday that I was going to write to you, and that I should mention his case, at which he expressed much satisfaction. If you will be so good to give us your opinion and advice, both he and I shall be much obliged to you. He is about 50 years of age, and has enjoyed good health till the beginning of the present year. Four months ago he first perceived that his food lodged above his stomach. This difficulty increased, and after some time he found it necessary to make efforts to bring it up. In this struggle part of the food comes up, and he has a sensation as if part of it passed by the obstruction into the stomach. One day, being very sick, the contents of the stomach were forced through the obstructed part, but much difficulty occurred in this operation. Upon the whole, though he can swallow fluids, he is evidently getting worse, and has lost of his weight 24 pounds. Seven or eight cases, nearly similar, have fallen within my observation, and they have all proved fatal. During the last month I have put him upon a mercurial course, and have kept up, during the greatest part of the time, a gentle spitting, by giving a grain of calomel twice, thrice, or four times a day. At the commencement of the spitting, the disease appeared to give way, but this amendment has not been lasting.

I am, with much esteem,

Your obliged servant,

B. WILMER.

LETTER XXV.

From the same.

Dear Sir, *Coventry, Nov.* 24, 1796.

The directions you gave relative to the case I some time since consulted you about, were observed, as long as they could be, with propriety. The symptoms went on, progressively increasing, till about a month after I wrote to you, when a suppuration took place. A considerable quantity of pus, mixed with membranous filaments, were discharged. This alteration produced not the least amendment, nor was he ever sensible that any thing taken into the œsophagus found its way into the stomach. Nutritive glysters appeared to keep up his strength till within the last fortnight, when he died, literally starved. The day before his death he was much convulsed. I had no opportunity of examining the state of the parts; but the suppuration clearly proves the propriety of your opinion that the disease was occasioned by some tumor shutting up the tube of the œsophagus.

I am, Dear Sir,

Your very obedient servant,

B. WILMER.

LETTER XXVI.

Rev. Mr. DALTON to Dr. LETTSOM.

Northwood, Isle of Wight,
Jan. 26, 1802.

Dear Sir,

You receive this line from an old patient who remembers all your former attentions with gratitude; and who would gladly take a journey to town for a word of your advice, if he were younger or more equal to the task. As this is not practicable, I will endeavour to state my case; as I feel confident that your humanity will suggest what *you* would do in the same situation. It is almost two years since I had a paralytic affection which deprived me, for about half an hour, of the use of my left arm. This naturally excited an apprehension of its return, and I used such helps as are common, a free use of mustard, electricity, and the flesh-brush. At certain times I have a sensation in that arm, which, though it be not painful, I never experience in the other. My complaint, I conceive, originates from a difficulty of digestion, and a tardy action of the bowels. My appetite is too keen, and perhaps morbid; but yet I never *fully* satisfy it. I rise and breakfast between seven and eight at this season, and much sooner in the summer; I dine at one, drink tea at six, and after that I take nothing more. I had, about the time of my seizure, a tendency to sleep in the

evening, so that a very interesting book would not avail to keep me awake; but that symptom is now reversed, and I cannot fall asleep (scarcely in two hours) after I go to bed. This last I impute to flatulence in the stomach, which is very tenacious of its place. My habit was once costive to excess, and to obviate this, I made use of a pill, the composition of which I enclose for your correction or approbation. But nature became friendly about 10 months ago, and gave me a gentle diarrhœa, which was attended with the most salutary effects. I had previously constant palpitations of the heart in the evening, and in the night, in bed, severe spasms and cramps, which compelled me to get up, which gave relief. This laxity continued above six months, and carried off all bad symptoms. It never debilitated, but rather made me more animated and active. This led me to use the pill *(pro re natâ)* when it left me about a month ago. But now in the night I feel my spasms again, and a difficulty to fall asleep, with frequent calls to make water copiously. I have some doubt whether this pill, though it be moderately aperient, be the best means to answer all the effects of my late diarrhœa. I submit this idea to your extensive knowledge in all such matters. I have now and then had a slight sickness in the stomach, followed by a copious flow of the saliva, very limpid, and as destitute of all tenacity as rain-water. I can only add to this, that I am now in a very *tolerable*

state, if I were only free from the fear of the paralysis coming upon me again, and perhaps with new and deplorable effects. I hope your active spirit of Howard (for his mantle fell upon *you*) will be so indulgent to an old friend, as to give a line of consolation by the post. I shall conform implicitly to your directions; and you never yet prescribed without the happiest success. It is true I am in my 68th year, and therefore I cannot in reason look for many more; but I am anxious to cherish the vital spark, and thankful for what I have already enjoyed.

I have *read* in the papers, and the Gentleman's Magazine, your premature losses, in which I have sympathized *en ami*. Your daughter-in-law I knew well, and her parents. She often contributed to entertain me by "the concord of sweet sounds." Pray was not Dr. Sydenham the author of the only good translation we have had of the works of Plato? I did not know before that the materials of his biography were so scanty as you have found them. I find you have given us recently a splendid edition of your History of the Tea-Tree. Go on, and prosper! Your reflections will, I trust, contribute much to longevity and happiness. Well as I know the value of your *time*, yet I am sure you will excuse this freedom of intrusion upon it, and deign to assist

Your often obliged old Friend,

THOMAS DALTON.

℞ Extract. Colocynth. comp. ʒiss.
Sap. ——— ʒss.
Ol. essent. menth. pip. gutt xv.
Tinct. Aloes q. s. f. pill. 20.
Cap. 1. hor. som. pro re natâ.

LETTER XXVII.

Dr. Lettsom's Reply.

Rev. Friend,

From the whole history of symptoms, communicated in thy very lucid letter, it would appear that by regulating the state of the stomach, much permanent relief would be secured. The spontaneous diarrhœa suggests the idea that some bilious matter had been set at liberty from the biliary ducts, which, by confinement before, occasioned torpor and constipation of the bowels, and heaviness in the head. It will therefore be requisite to maintain a due state of alvine evacuation, and I think the pills mentioned very suitable; however, I have added another formula, as perhaps more antispasmodic; as well as a medicine to invigorate the tone of the stomach, and to promote a proper digestion.

Accept my thanks for thy kind sympathy in my severe domestic dispensations; which still prey upon my feelings with unabated anxiety.

℞ Ligni Quassiæ
Caryoph. arom. āā ℈j
Ay. Fervent. ℥vj.
Colitur liq. frigifact. et
colaturæ adde
Tinct. Cardom. Comp. ℥iij.
Test. Ostreor. pp. ℈ij.
Magnes. Alb. ℈j.
Zinci Vitriol. Pur. gr. iss.
M. Capt Coch. com. iij. hora
xj ante, et vj post merid.

℞ Pulv. Rhei
Pil. Aloës cum Myrrh.
Pulv. Aromat.
Pil. Sapon. āā ℈j.
Camph. ℈ss.
Olei Carui q. s. f. in
Pil. xxiv. capt. ij. omni
nocte.

℞ Liq. Anod. M. Hoff.
Tinct. Opii. Camph.
—— Cast. Russ. āā ℥ss. M. Capt.
Coch. theæ. pro re natâ.

J. C. Lettsom.

LETTER XXVIII.

Dr. LIVINGSTON to Dr. LETTSOM.

Sir, *Aberdeen, June 29, 1789.*

There never was an ague known to be generated in Aberdeen till the year 1775, when some new streets were built in a low swamp near the quay. The season when the undertaking was first begun was uncommonly rainy, and there were several of the masons and bricklayers, who had been exposed to it, as well as from the nature of the situation, who came into the infirmary, with regular tertians. By the common treatment they recovered; and I believe, since that period, there has not been an instance known. The inhabitants of that part of the town, as the marsh was pretty well drained, I believe have not been more unhealthy than in any other district. There has been, for some months past, an epidemic dysenteria, among the inhabitants of a fishing-town in this neighbourhood. It has proved fatal to numbers of them. As such a disease could not be admitted into our hospital, a temporary one has been fitted up for those that are worst, and the faculty here have given their attendance by rotation. In the first stage of the complaint there are evident indications for bleeding, and the inflammatory crust always covers the coagulum. Repeated purgatives of neutral salts next have been administered; and when the bowels

seemed to be in an atonic state, starch clysters combined with *tinct. thebaic.* a certain allowance of wine, and small doses of *tinct. kino*, I think, has been the plan of cure that has most contributed to recovery.

I am, Sir, Your faithful servant,

WM. LIVINGSTON.

LETTER XXIX.

From the same.

Sir, *Aberdeen, May* 13, 1790.

Notwithstanding the mildness of this last winter, this place has been more than commonly sick. The malignant sore-throat has been most prevalent, and very fatal; no period of life being exempted. One circumstance attended the complaint in children from six months to three years of age, not generally remarked. Towards the termination of the life of the patient, a livid appearance shewed itself behind the ears; this soon spread over the external ear; a sphacelus ensued, and in seven or eight cases, these organs, in some, one, and in others, both, fairly dropped off before death. The medical gentlemen here were in doubt, whether the practice of dusting behind the ears of children with ceruss, might not have contributed to this, but on inquiry, only two of those afflicted had ever been treated in that way.

I am, Sir, Your obedient servant,

WM. LIVINGSTON.

LETTER XXX.

Sir T. G. CULLUM, to Dr. LETTSOM.

Dear Sir, *Bury, Oct.* 21, 1784.

I opened a child about three weeks ago, who lived *fifty-four* days with an imperforated rectum. I have got a preparation of the parts, from the inspection of which, I think, a perforation by a small trocar would have proved successful. Notwithstanding the child lived so long, the intestines were not mortified, or scarcely inflamed; the fæces quite liquid, of a good colour, and not the least appearance of the excrementitious fæces usually called *meconium.*

Your's very sincerely,

T. G. CULLUM.

LETTER XXXI.

Dr. RICKETSON to Dr. LETTSOM.

Dear Doctor, *New York,* 5th, 8th *Mo.* 1810.

I am pleased that my work on Health meets thy approbation. It is true, many more additional authorities, both ancient and modern, might have been added, but these would have increased the size and expence of it, which would have thwarted, in some measure, its own object; it being designed

for the use of others as well as physicians; and all books, especially in this country, intended for popular use, ought not to be very large nor expensive.

The size and expence of Sinclair's late work on Health and Longevity, operate much against its sale and use here.

It is surprising that no late author in Great Britain has written on the diseases of artificers. If any one has lately appeared, I wish information.

Great and increasing attention is now giving to medical improvement and education in America; and medical schools are forming in several other places, besides those already established in Philadelphia and New York, which are attended by large classes of students.

I have no doubt that the virtues of the digitalis have been over-rated, both in phthisical and hydropic affections. It is falling into disuse here, especially in the former.

Vaccination is spreading with great rapidity and success in the various remote parts of this extensive continent. I was one of the early advocates and practisers of this novel and important discovery, in America, which I rejoice to see prosper amidst all prejudice and opposition.

I expect the Medical Repository reaches thee. A similar publication, the Philadelphia Medical Museum, is printed there, and another at Baltimore.

I unite in an ardent wish that all medical writers would record histories of facts, rather than frame mere speculative hypotheses.

The Medical Repository has furnished thee with the history of American epidemics for about 13 years past.

This city has experienced an exemption, in great measure, from typhus icterodes, since 1805. The typhus petechialis has prevailed with great mortality for two or three years past, in some parts of the states of Connecticut and Massachusetts.

Adjacent to the hospital in this city, has lately been erected a lunatic asylum; a building which, for conveniency, &c. is perhaps unequalled by any other, and contains a considerable number of patients, which are increasing.

Remaining, thy respectful friend,

SH. RICKETSON.

LETTER XXXII.

Dr. FALCONER to Dr. LETTSOM.

Dear Sir, *Bath, July* 14, 1774.

I received the favour of your very ingenious and useful book of "Memoirs of the General Dispensary." A few remarks on it will be, I am assured, more agreeable to you than the most flattering commendations. I always suspected that experiment of Dr. Percival's respecting the bark coagu-

lating the bile, and adding to its fœtor; and your experiments have fully satisfied my doubts on that head. I think you have very extraordinary merit in standing forth, almost single, in an efficacious method of practice in a disorder which requires the most active means, and which admits of no delay. Dr. Cleghorn before observed of the intermittent fever, that the bilious, or external colour of the skin, was so far from being a reason for the bark being contra-indicated, that there was the utmost danger in its being delayed after the appearance of that symptom. This, as proceeding from a man of so great accuracy, may have induced practitioners to have doubted the propriety of forbidding it in other cases where a similar appearance took place; and I am happy to find you have so satisfactorily obviated the same objections in the continued, as he did in the intermittent fever. I entirely agree with you on the appearance of the urine; I have observed more than once, and once in a patient of Dr. Fothergill's who died here, that as she grew worse, the urine became more flattering, and once when she appeared rather better, the urine became much clearer: she died of a nervous fever, but without any putrid symptoms.

The tincture of bark I generally use is as follows:

Cort. Peruv. }
Cinnam. }
Aurant sicc *aa* ʒiij
Sp. Vin. Gall. sen. ʒxvj Stent. per dies iv. Col.

This is by much the most agreeable of any I ever tried; it is less loaded with ingredients than Huxham's, and, I think, on that account, stronger. When the stomach is apt to reject the bark, I would advise a trial of this. I believe the snake-root is not of so great efficacy as the bark, and is more disagreeable, and must impede the menstruum dissolving a proportionable quantity of the more efficacious ingredients. I can now add no more than that I am, with great respect and esteem,

Your obliged and faithful humble servant,

W. Falconer.

LETTER XXXIII.

From the same.

Dear Sir, *Dec.* 19, 1774.

I beg your acceptance of the second volume of an Essay on the Bath Waters. I hope it may meet with your approbation, at least in some respects. I beg leave to suggest that the warm bath might be of great service in many disorders, among the lower order of people especially, who work at dirty trades, which stop up the cutaneous pores by the adherent foulness, and thus prevent the cutaneous discharges. This might be a more remarkable instance of its efficacy in medicine as a detergent, than any other that could be suggested. In se-

veral trades also, animal substances, often in a putrid state, must adhere to the skin, as butchers, skinners, &c., and thus add greatly to the putrid disposition, not only by closing up the excretories, and preventing the discharges by the skin, but by supporting a putrid *fomes* externally, and surrounding the body as it were, with a putrid atmosphere. I think, therefore, that it is very likely the warm bath might be an efficacious remedy in your practice on the Dispensary account, as if not too long continued in, no harm can be done by it, and it need only be once used. I beg leave also to suggest that I have had reason to suspect that musk is not a proper medicine in putrid diseases, if given in substance. It is, you know, an animal substance, and generally adulterated with blood, mostly in a moist state, and though not obviously fetid from putrefaction, I believe that is only from its own strong smell overpowering the other. Musk I have found a very weak antiseptic.

I have seen three instances where very large quantities, in substance, were given, wherein the bodies putrefied in a high degree very soon after death; symptoms of it appeared before death, though the original complaint was not of that kind. I think the Edinburgh Dispensatory avoids this inconvenience by advising a tincture of musk, which may be taken without fear of that effect.

I am, Dear Sir,

Your obedient servant,

W. FALCONER.

LETTER XXXIV.

From the same.

Dear Sir, *Oct.* 21, 1776.

I have this summer been employed in examining some of the properties of fixible air by experiments, especially in dissolvent and antiseptic ones; both which I find by experience to be very trifling, except in the solution of the urinary calculus, on which it exerts considerable effects. But whether experiments out of the body are to be trusted, I cannot determine. They may, however, and ought to encourage a trial. I will send you a copy of my experiments in a few days. Besides those which are printed, I have made some additional ones on antiseptics, to which indeed the first are applicable. I find by experience that the proportion of strength of antiseptics differs according to the degree of heat. Thus lemon juice may be more antiseptic than cinnamon at 76°, but the case may be different at 56° or at 86°. I do not mean this is so in the above instance, but only to explain my meaning. This has not been, as I know, observed before, nor did I observe it till since my pamphlet was printed. My table differs, as you will see, from Sir J. Pringle's very much. I found alkalies septic by repeated experiments, and the volatile alkali (which he found most antiseptic) the most septic of the two. The salt of tartar rather seemed to promote putrefaction at first, but afterwards seemed to pre-

vent its increase. The vitriolic acid, both by itself, and in the *Sp. Nitr. Dulc.* two drachms, of which last was added to ʒviij of water, possessed little or no antiseptic powers; the last of these experiments I made since the others were printed. Nitre, in proportion of ʒi to ʒviij of water, was rather septic than otherwise, as I found by repeated experiments; and snake-root powder, strong beer, and cyder, I found to be some of the strongest antiseptics. But these are since the other experiments were printed. The saline mixture, fresh made, was, to my great surprize, less antiseptic than one from which the fixed air had been discharged. This experiment I have since repeated with a similar effect in one degree, but not so remarkably as in the first. This, if true, is a singular fact, and deserves inquiry.

I am highly pleased with your pamphlet on that audacious impostor Mayersbach. The measure of credulity will never be full, nor does, in this instance, one generation improve by the experience of the last. What an imposition this to be practised in the 18th century, when we are all so eager to cast off all imposition both in arts, politics, and religion! It will remain as a monument of the folly of the nation in our history, and make posterity discredit our accounts of the improvements made in this age. I am sure, however, Dr. Lettsom deserves the thanks and gratitude of the public in a high degree, for his disinterested and brave attempt to undeceive a foolish people. I fear

however, the faculty are, in some measure, the causes themselves. That air of mystery they assume, and the little care they take of their own improvement when past the trammels of a school and college, which the world easily see, as well as several other faults, make such deceits as Mayersbach's more easily swallowed.

I am, Dear Sir,

Yours, very faithfully,

W. FALCONER.

LETTER XXXV.

From the same.

July 25, 1781.

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As to Dr. Fothergill's practical maxims, I know that he avoided all local applications in the gout, and even held them dangerous in some other spasmodic affections, as the cramp. His judgment was manifested by experience. The late —— Nuttal, Solicitor to the Treasury, had a violent cramp in his legs, for which Dr. Rigge, of Bristol, Dr. Garrow, of Barnet, and myself, had ordered local warm applications, as essential oils, opodeldoc, &c. Dr. F. however, opposed this, and maintained that that practice was improper and dangerous, and might put an end to his life suddenly, which was indeed the case, as he died suddenly on his way to London, at Hounslow, about five years ago. Bath was no

favourite with him, and I think rather too prejudicedly. He thought it little more, as a bath, than common water. Perhaps I may also be prejudiced, but I believe I am not, and I think the history of medicine is on my side. To sum up Dr. F.'s character as a physician, he was attentive, assiduous, and peculiarly fitted for making and employing observations, the great criterion of genius. His learning was, I believe, considerable, but, like an original in his profession, he chose to let it appear rather in his practice than expressions.

"*Nullius addictus jurare in verba magistri,*" was his motto. His attempts to serve his patients were generally of the active kind. His genius was unfit for trifling, though he well understood the forms proper for waiting the efforts of nature, or the effects of medicines. He was sometimes, as you may see by his letters, a little warm in his temper, but yet, as you may also see, always placable and generous, and ready to make acknowledgments, even where none were expected or necessary. His character, in other respects, was, I believe, nobly disinterested. No views but those of his patients' benefit ever intermixed with his directions. This part of his character may appear general in common language, but we all know it belongs to *few*. To me he always appeared, and I believe was, totally void of ostentation. Men of genius have too much honest pride to be vain. Ratcliff doctors may rely on such arts, but our friend was superior to such means of acquiring

fame. I do not here mean external shew only, but pomp and affectation of dignity. Dr. F. had also another mark of genius, inseparable, I believe, from it, which was a noble and ingenuous communicativeness of temper. Weak and ignorant people affect reserve, as if it were the means of assuming rank and gaining credit. But in my observations, those who have affected it, had generally nothing to disclose, though to this there may be exceptions. I do not mean an indiscriminate communication, but a free and generous interchange of sentiment and information, a certain mark of a liberal spirit, whose desire is to communicate and receive knowledge. Narrow-minded people are as covetous of knowledge as of money; they look upon a piece of information as a diminution of their own capital, and that the interest of it would thereby be rendered more scanty.

Pardon this incoherent declamation; but as it was dictated by affection and regard, it needs less apology. I am, Dear Sir, Yours truly,

W. FALCONER.

LETTER XXXVI.

From the same.

Dec. 12, 1787.

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We have had a sore-throat and fever here among a few persons, but not epidemic. It seems to be

more like the angina putrida than Withering's scarlatina. It has sometimes been attended, when neglected, with large hard swellings on each side of the neck, as large as a turkey egg. One of these I saw, when the patient died suffocated by the compression of the larynx and trachea. The swellings were opened, and shewed a large cavity, but empty, nor did they subside on being opened.

I am, Dear Doctor, in haste,

Your very affectionate

W. FALCONER.

LETTER XXXVII.

From the same.

Oct. 19, 1792.

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The wet summer has produced no epidemic in our country, that I hear of. I am inclined to think that weather, provided people are not exposed to it, by want of lodging or covering, influences, in this country, the health less than is imagined; at least the particular effects any series of weather produces are not ascertained. I think I have seen putrid diseases more common in dry weather than in wet. In other climates it is otherwise. To develope these arcana would be curious as a matter of inquiry as well as utility.

An accurate observation of some large poor-house, or assemblage of persons supposed to be in health, would do better than a hospital, where diseases are often confounded, and where one so employs the attention that smaller affections are disregarded. W. F.

LETTER XXXVIII.

Dr. Rush to Dr. Lettsom.

Dear Sir, *Philadelphia, Nov.* 15, 1783.

Accept of my thanks for your friendly letter, and the books that accompanied it. It is an act of charity to pour upon a benighted American the discoveries of the last eight years in Europe. I have feasted upon each of your pamphlets. Your account of the life and character of our worthy friend Dr. Fothergill, will insure you a place in the temple of fame. It has attached me more to my profession than ever. No man ever discharged all its various duties, or supported its honour, with more fidelity and dignity, than our deceased friend. Let heroes pursue glory and happiness in arms, I wish for no greater share of both than are to be derived from imitating Dr. Fothergill.

The state of our country, for some years past, has been unfavourable to improvements of every kind in science. I approve of your plan for instituting a Medical Society in Philadelphia, and am

not without hopes of seeing it carried into execution, as soon as the minds of our literati are more perfectly detached from the political subjects that have swallowed up all the ingenuity and industry of our country.

The only return I can make you for your publications, is to beg your acceptance of a small tract I published about two years ago, upon the hackneyed subject of inoculation.

I have prepared four or five essays for the press, each of which contains something new. The first is on the usefulness of blistering and bleeding in obstinate autumnal and winter intermittents. Dr. Hall can inform you of my mode of using these remedies, and the success that attended them. The second is upon a new mode of curing the tetanus. I think I have discovered that opium is in general hurtful, and that it does service only when it is given in such doses as to obtain its *stimulating* effects. My facts upon this subject were collected during my services in the Military Hospital of the United States. The third essay is upon the usefulness of calomel in the ulcerous sore throat of angina scarlatina. The fourth contains proofs of the existence of a moral faculty from the influence of diseases upon that principle. Upon this subject I have collected some curious and interesting facts. If you think these essays, put into a decent plain dress, will stand a chance of selling in London, I shall commit them to the press, and send copies of them to you early in the spring, to be

published under your inspection and patronage. With great respect for your useful and eminent character,

I am, Dear Sir, your sincere and affectionate friend,

BENJ. RUSH.

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LETTER XXXIX.

From the same.

Dear Sir, *Oct. 24, 1788.*

Capt. Sutton will deliver to you a small bundle, containing samples of two medicines, which have lately become parts of the Materia Medica of the physicians of the United States.

The first is the Butter-nut pill. It is made by boiling the inner bark of a species of the walnut (peculiar, I believe, to this country, and described only by the Rev. Mr. Cutler, in the Memoirs of the Boston Academy) in water, and afterwards evaporating the water till a thick extract is obtained from it. Two or three pills of five grains each, made from this extract, open the bowels in the most lenient manner. I have used it for many years as an officinal medicine in the piles, in fevers, and particularly in that species of costiveness which frequently occurs soon after parturition. During the late war, when medicines were not to be purchased, it was the only purge that was used in the

American army. Many thousand soldiers took nothing else to prepare them for the small-pox after they were inoculated. I do not know a more mild, safe, or agreeable purge. It may be given dissolved in water, as well as in pills. Should you upon trial, approve of it, many pounds could easily be procured in this state, and sent to London. The trees which afford it grow in forests in some counties of Pennsylvania; and in every part of the State, they are to be found on the banks of our creeks and rivers.

The second medicine which I have sent to you is the *thorough wort*. It is called *cow-tongue* in Maryland, from the roughness of its leaf, and *thorough stem* in other places, from its leaves being perforated by its stalks. I take it to be a species of the *thorow wax* or *perfoliata*, described by Dr. Short in his Medicina Britannica, and of the *Eupatorium Perfoliatum* of Linnæus. It grows in moist rich ground, about two or three feet in height, and puts forth a white flower in September. It appears to be an annual plant. I have sent you a small quantity of its seed, which I hope to hear you have sowed in your garden at Camberwell. Should you succeed in cultivating it, I am sure your countrymen will have reason to thank you for it, for I know few more valuable medicines. It is an agreeable bitter, having a light aromatic taste. I have used it occasionally above fifteen years, and every year's observation of its effects increase my confidence in it for the cure of

all those diseases which are accompanied with foulnesses on the skin, or with a cachectic habit of body.

In the scrophula, even when attended with ulcers, it has performed some great cures. In two cases of hectic fever, attended with large and deep-seated ulcers on most of the joints of the extremities, I have seen it used with success, after bark and mercury had been given in large doses to no purpose. I generally give it in a strong infusion, but where it is not agreeable in that form, I have prescribed it in pills. I direct the ulcers (when such occur) to be washed with a little of the infusion every day. The first doses of it generally puke and purge a little. After these effects are over, it acts only by promoting a gentle and steady perspiration. From the similarity of its operations and virtues to some of the preparations of antimony, it has been called, by one of our physicians, *vegetable antimony*. I have heard of a cancer being cured by its external and internal use, in South Carolina. It is used in Maryland as a specific, by the poor people, in the intermitting fever. It is first taken as a puke, and afterwards in such doses as to act only as a bitter tonic.

I remain, Yours, &c. B. RUSH.

LETTER XL.

From the same.

Dear Sir, *Philadelphia, June* 15, 1790.

The influenza has again visited our continent. In this city it has been attended with several new and peculiar symptoms, an account of which will be published in the Transactions of our College of Physicians. It has proved most fatal on our sea-coasts, and to the following classes of people, viz. very old persons, people labouring under weak breasts, and hard drinkers.

I have written to Dr. Percival of Manchester, and Dr. Duncan of Edinburgh, in favour of a voyage to America, and a tour through the United States, as a radical cure for the phthisis pulmonalis, and have advised them to send their consumptive patients to us, instead of sending them to the continent of Europe. Here they will be prepared by a previous sea voyage, for a long journey; here they may enjoy, by travelling from north to south, or south to north, for two or three months, nearly the *same* temperature of air. Here a constant succession of new and interesting objects will occur to engage their understandings or affections, and here amusements will not, in any village, tempt them to recede from the directions of their physicians.

Good accommodations for travellers may be

Good accommodations for travellers may be had from one end of our country to the other. Where these accommodations are less elegant or luxurious than in an European country, they will contribute proportionably more to the recovery of your patients.

The College of Physicians have ordered an Eulogium to be delivered by one of their members, in honour of the late Dr. Cullen. This task has unfortunately fallen upon,

Dear Sir, Your sincere friend,

BENJ. RUSH.

LETTER XLI.

From the same.

Dear Sir, *Philadelphia, May* 26, 1795.

I have, within the last 18 months, had six cases of internal dropsy of the brain under my care, five of which were saved by copious bleeding, and other depleting remedies. From one of them, a boy of ten years old, the son of the Baptist clergyman of this city, fifty ounces of blood were taken by seven bleedings in ten days. In two weeks from his last bleeding, he was perfectly well. You may see the theory upon which I found my practice in this disorder, in the second volume of my "Inquiries and Observations." The same practice has been successful in two cases of dropsy of the brain, which were lately attended by my friend Dr. Griffiths.

He cured them both by no other remedies than copious bleedings and purging. In drawing blood in these cases we pay but little regard to the frequency of the pulse, but are governed chiefly by its fulness or force. Its slowness, or its intermissions, we consider as the most vehement calls of the system for a repetition of blood-letting. But the success of bleeding in dropsies, in our city, has not been confined to that species of it which affects the brain. In anasarca, ascites, and hydrothorax, it has been equally successful, not only when directed by Dr. Griffiths and myself, but by Dr. Physick, a very ingenious and enterprising young physician, who has lately adopted our principles and practice in medicine. We are, in the latter states of dropsy, as in the first mentioned, wholly governed by the pulse, which we find to be full, or tense, or preternaturally slow, or intermitting, in most recent cases.

I have lately cured a lady, from the State of Georgia, of epilepsy, of five years continuance, by means of a salivation, which was kept up for five or six weeks.

The disorder had destroyed her memory, and greatly impaired her understanding. I was much struck by observing that the epilepsy passed out of her system, through the channels of two other diseases, viz. madness and hysteria, both of which yielded in a few weeks to the restoration of her strength, aided by gentle exercise and country air. She has since brought her husband (a gentleman

of large fortune) a fine daughter; and she now enjoys, with good health, the perfect exercise of all the faculties of her mind.

I remain, yours sincerely,

BENJ. RUSH.

LETTER XLII.

From the same.

Dear Sir, *Philadelphia, July* 28, 1796.

I concur with you in ascribing the highly inflammatory character of our diseases, in *part* to political causes. But our climate has the chief influence upon them. Intense heat and cold, in quick succession to each other, cannot fail of producing a high degree of inflammatory diathesis in the system. The present rapid state of improvement in our country has given our diseases a bilious complexion every where. We cut down our woods, and thereby expose our low and wet grounds to the action of the sun; but by neglecting to follow the axe with the plough, and with suitable drains to carry off the moisture in a harmless way, we lay a foundation for those bilious diseases. The yellow fever (for that grade of fever is often assumed by our bilious diseases) is now acknowledged every where (Philadelphia excepted) to be of American origin. In a fourth volume of the

"Inquiries and Observations," which I have just published, I have collected many new proofs of this assertion. This volume contains, with an account of the yellow fever in 1794, a new proximate cause of fever, and a defence of blood-letting.

Your sincere friend,

BENJ. RUSH.

LETTER XLIII.

From the same.

Dear Sir, *Philadelphia, Oct.* 25, 1803.

The bilious fever, in its malignant form, has prevailed during the late summer, and the beginning of the present autumn, in our city. It assumed a new character, and yielded to other remedies than those employed in former years. After moderate depletion from the blood-vessels and bowels, *sweating* was generally employed with great success. *Early* blisters were likewise found useful. A salivation was seldom found necessary by our physicians in any case. I did not use it in a single instance. The use of sweating remedies was suggested by a spontaneous moisture on the skin, which occurred in the first stage of the disease. In this symptom it differed very much from our former epidemics. A dry skin was an almost universal symptom in all of them, and sweats were

attempted in them with as little effect as they would have been upon a mahogany table. It is thus, by following the *direction* of nature in the manner I have mentioned, without trusting to her *operations*, that we often cure diseases.

The doctrine of the importation of our fever has been relinquished by many of its former advocates. Many hundred instances have occurred this year, which clearly demonstrate that it is not propagated by contagion, but wholly by means of an atmosphere, rendered impure by putrid exhalations. Our College of Physicians are silent, they cannot produce a single fact to support their former opinions of the foreign origin of our late fever; and as yet they have not had magnanimity enough to acknowledge their error. The account given by Sir Robert Wilson, of the non-contagion of the plague, has contributed very much to remove the errors and prejudices of our citizens, who formerly believed in the contagious nature of the bilious yellow fever.

I remain, Yours, &c.

BENJ. RUSH.

LETTER XLIV.

From the same.

Dear Sir, *Philadelphia, May* 13, 1804.

I am sorry to perceive by your letter that we still differ in our opinions respecting the origin and

means of preventing the yellow fever. It is always the offspring of putrid exhalations from *dead* animal and vegetable matters. Beyond, and out of the reach of such exhalations, a yellow fever never did exist, as an epidemic, in any age or country. It is *not* contagious, and never spreads beyond the influence of the atmosphere in which it is generated. It dies when carried into the country, even in crowded rooms, where the attendants upon the sick receive their breath for days and weeks. It even dies in our yellow fever hospitals in the vicinity of our cities. It is true it sometimes puts on the symptoms of your typhus fever. This, however, is rarely the case; but it differs materially from your typhus, which is the offspring of exhalations from sickly, or filthy, or half-famished human bodies, and which spreads by what is called the contagion of excretion, within the circle of the persons who attend or visit the sick. This fever spreads alike in country places and cities, under equal circumstances of filth, famine, and confinement. I lament very much that two forms of fever, so different in their causes and characters, have been confounded, inasmuch as error is calculated to increase and perpetuate the evils produced by the yellow fever, by unnecessary and nugatory quarantines, and the total neglect of cleanliness.

From the sameness of the stories with respect to the contagious nature of the yellow fever, published by two or three weak and illiterate practitioners of medicine in our city (all of which are not only

erroneous, but highly ridiculous), with those that are intended to establish the contagious nature of the plague, I am still disposed to believe the latter disease can originate and spread *only* in an atmosphere contaminated by exhalations from putrid animal and vegetable matters.

The separation of the sick from the healthy has been repeatedly tried to no purpose to check the progress of our yellow fever. It originates frequently in half a dozen places in our city, remote from each other, and at the *same* time.

Be assured, my friend, our yellow fever is no other disease than a higher grade of the common bilious fever of warm climates and seasons. From causes unknown, but probably existing in a change in the atmosphere, it has appeared of late in many parts of the world that have for centuries been strangers to it. A less malignant grade of it than that which prevails in our country, has lately visited yours. Dr. Simson has described one at Birmingham, and Mr. White one at Bath. The latter calls it, very happily, "a diminutive yellow fever."

Our epidemic of last year yielded to sudorific medicines, only when they were preceded or aided by bleeding and purges.

The extremes of heat and cold, by producing greater extremes of violence in our fevers than in yours, call for more depletion, and from more outlets, than the fevers of Great Britain. Your citizens in the first ranks are debilitated by luxury, while those of the lower ranks are debilitated by

scanty food and excess of labour. Hence the low and chronic forms of your fevers, and hence also the propriety of the cordial and tonic remedies employed in curing them. Our citizens of the first rank live plentifully, but upon simple food, and spend the intervals between their meals in active business, instead of enervating pleasures. Our lower classes of citizens likewise live plentifully, and enjoy frequent relaxations from labour; hence the inflammatory type of our fevers, and hence also the propriety and success of the depleting remedies, so generally employed among them.

I remain, &c.

BENJ. RUSH.

LETTER XLV.

From the same.

Dear Sir, *Philadelphia, April* 18, 1806.

It gave me great pleasure a few days ago to read the public testimony of the Jennerian Society in favour of Vaccination. I have the honour of according with their opinions in their fullest extent. In no one instance has a disagreeable eruption of any kind followed the vaccine pustule in my practice; nor has a symptom of the small-pox been produced in any one of the patients whom I have afterwards inoculated with the variolous matter.

I lament that you and I continue to think so

differently upon the subject of the contagiousness of the yellow fever. Proofs of its domestic origin, and of its spreading exclusively from an impure atmosphere, rendered so by putrid exhalation, multiply yearly in every part of our country. The College of Physicians of Philadelphia stand alone among the physicians of the United States in supporting a contrary opinion. *Do, my friend, give the subject a second investigation.* The evils which flow from a belief in the importation of our American pestilence are incalculable. It has perpetuated the disease in our country. It has demoralized our citizens, as far as humanity constitutes moral character. It fosters national prejudice and hostility, and it consigns thousands every year to the grave, who might otherwise have been preserved from it.

I remain, &c.

BENJ. RUSH.

LETTER XLVI.

From the same.

Dear Sir, *Philadelphia, June* 17, 1808.

The measles have lately been epidemic in our city. A catarrh prevailed at the same time among adults of a very inflammatory and obstinate nature. A few bilious fevers have lately appeared among us, and some of them with symptoms of great

malignity, such as usually attend the highest or worst grade of that disease; that is, what is commonly called the yellow fever. I know you do not admit of the domestic origin of the fever which bears that unpopular and odious name. In this belief you were formerly one of a great majority of physicians in all countries; but this is far from being the case at present in the United States. With the exception of two physicians in New York, one in the Delaware State, and about half a dozen in Philadelphia, a belief in its being an indigenous disease of our country, and like the common bilious fever, the offspring of putrid exhalation, is now universal in every part of the Union. I wish, my good friend, you would give this subject a second consideration. I once thought as you do, but facts forced my present opinions upon me. While I thus mention the small number of physicians in our country, who admit of the exclusive origin of the yellow fever in domestic filth, I am sorry to add, that its importation from the West Indies is still believed by a great many of our citizens, particularly in Philadelphia. Their error is the effect of their confidence in the judgments of the five or six physicians who still defend it, and with a zeal that implies a suspicion that it is fast passing away from the public mind.

I have lately attended a man in the Natural Small Pox, whom I inoculated six and twenty years ago. He shewed me a deep and extensive scar upon his arm made by the variolous matter, and the

marks of two pock upon one of his legs. His mother, who is still living, says he had a considerable number on other parts of his body. In the interval between the time of my inoculating him, (which was in his infancy), and the time in which he was attacked with the Natural Small Pox, he had been repeatedly exposed to its contagion. At Calcutta he visited a sailor who died with it, and afterwards assisted in putting his corpse into a coffin. This case may serve as an *offset* to the cases of Small Pox succeeding Vaccination mentioned by Drs. Moseley and Squirrel.

Adieu! from, Dear Sir,

Your sincere old friend,

BENJAMIN RUSH.

LETTER XLVII.

From the same.

Dear Sir, *Philadelphia, May* 3, 1810.

In the last letter which I had the pleasure of receiving from you, you expressed a wish to know whether our American yellow fever could be taken more than once. To this question I am able to answer in the affirmative. More than an hundred instances have occurred of its having been twice taken in Philadelphia, and a few of its having been

taken twice and three times; and one in which a young woman died of a fourth attack of it. In this respect it partakes of the character of the common bilious fever, of which it is only the *highest* grade. In this opinion I am supported by 19-20ths of the physicians of the United States, as well as by the respectable authorities of Dr. Hillary, Dr. Lind, and Dr. Huck. The testimony of Dr. Huck is to be seen in a note in Sir John Pringle's Treatise upon the Diseases of the British Army.

I have a son now in Edinburgh, who purposes to visit London in the course of the present, or of the next month. I have directed him to do homage to his father's friends in London, and particularly to Dr. Lettsom. He is very dear to his family, and much respected by all who know him. I have a daughter likewise at, or near, Barnet, twelve miles from London, with her husband, a Capt. Manners of the British army, and two children. I have given her a letter of introduction to you. By the antiquity and uniformity of our friendship, let me beg your attention to her. She complains in her letters of her solitary situation. Her father's house has been opened for forty years to British strangers. I hope she will meet with that kindness from you which you have often, nay more, *always*, shewed to the natives and citizens of the United States. In case of sickness in her family, I beg you may be her physician as well as her friend.

Vaccination continues to triumph over prejudice and ignorance in every part of our country.

I have lately published editions of Dr. Sydenham's and Dr. Cleghorn's Works, with notes, intended to accommodate them to the climate, diet, manners, and diseases, of the inhabitants of the United States.

Adieu! from, Dear Sir, yours truly
and respectfully,
BENJAMIN RUSH.

LETTER XLVIII.

From the Rev. Dr. MADISON.

Williamsburg, Virginia, Dec. 16, 1800.

My Dear Sir,

I am anxious to communicate to you a fact, which in your hands may perhaps be of importance to the medical world. Of this, however, you will best judge. It was new to me, and evinced so ready, certain, and powerful a mode of counteracting the effects of poison, communicated by the bite of an animal, that it appeared worthy of your attention.

In a town, this fall, among the mountains of our country, near to the place where I happened to be, a boy of twelve or thirteen years of age, was bit on the side of one of his feet by a very

venomous serpent, commonly called a copper-head. The poison of this animal is not less dreaded than that of the crotalus horridus, or rattlesnake. The boy was carried home, and soon discovered symptoms of great uneasiness. A swelling commenced; and the wound was slightly scarified. A bystander, acquainted, I suppose, with the practice of the Indians, recommended the following application: A chicken was caught, the feathers plucked from around the abdomen, and that part closely applied to the wound. The chicken instantly grew sick, and died as quickly as if its head had been cut off. A second was applied in a similar manner: it died in about four minutes. A third also experienced the same fate, in nearly eight minutes. A fourth was applied: it discovered some uneasiness, but did not die. The process was then discontinued. The boy was relieved, and suffered no greater inconvenience from the wound than he would have done from the puncture of a needle or pin. He was perfectly well on the second day. Having heard of what had passed, I was preparing to go to the house where the boy was, when his father, a very respectable man, a magistrate, and noted for his strict veracity, together with two other persons upon whose information I entirely relied, from an intimate acquaintance with them, came to me. From them I heard the particulars related; as they were present and witnessed the effects of this extraordinary *imbibition* of the poison. There remains not the shadow

of doubt of the fact as I have stated it. I saw the boy on the third day.

The Copper-head resembles the Mockason somewhat; but is larger. Some, indeed, consider it as the female rattlesnake, but I rather suppose it to be a distinct species. This snake is not mentioned by Catesby. Might not the same remedy be applied in the case of a bite from a mad dog?

With the sincerest esteem and respect,

I am your friend and servant,

J. MADISON.

LETTER XLIX.

From the same.

Williamsburg, Dec. 15, 1801.

My Dear Sir,

You have long heard of the *petro de cobra*, or serpent-stone of the East Indies. It appears that we have several of them in this State, or some stones of a similar nature; and my great desire to get one of them into my possession, so as to give you an accurate description of it, prevented me from replying to your first favour as soon as I otherwise should have done. Avarice has as yet defeated my intentions; for these stones bring in such profit to their possessors, that they will not permit them to be laid before me. No fact, however, seems now to be better ascertained, than their efficacy in preventing hydrophobia. So many

persons bit by mad dogs have been effectually secured from the usual dreadful consequences, that little doubt of the singular property of this stone can remain even in the minds of the most sceptical. A remarkable instance came under my own observation, and which was attended with such circumstances as to satisfy my mind. I mention this to you as it affords another striking instance of the power of *imbibition*. I hope, however, to be able to write to you more satisfactorily upon this subject, as I am sure I cannot render you a greater service, or contribute more to your pleasure, than by aiding you in the smallest degree, in extending as far as possible your works of charity and beneficence. Besides, in submitting facts of this kind to your judgment, I know they will be properly appreciated.

I have inclosed the slough of one of our largest black snakes, or the outward coat which they throw off in the spring of the year. It was found at full length, turned inside out, and was very perfect and beautiful. It was somewhat injured in the attempt to turn it back again. Insects also have attacked it, and done it considerable injury. You will observe in this operation of nature, that even the corner of the eye is thrown off. Perhaps it may be thought not unworthy of a small corner in your museum, which, I find, contributes its part to a truly splendid entertainment.

I am, &c.

J. MADISON.

LETTER L.

From the same.

Williamsburg, Oct. 26, 1803.

My Dear Sir,

Having been for many years President of the Directors of the Hospital for Insane Persons established by this State, I have very lately caused a proper and convenient cold bath to be constructed, in which it is proposed to plunge the patients of the hospital, especially such as are attended with paroxysms of fury and violence, until they shall be fit subjects for the resuscitative process. Following the plan recommended, there can be no doubt of restoration; and if, as there is reason to believe from a great number of seemingly well authenticated facts, the person restored to life should also have his senses restored, the advantages of your labours will be greatly augmented; and the discovery of means already so beneficially applied, will lead to a still more extensive application, and to cases the most deplorable. Hitherto, I have not ventured to proceed farther, or to suffer a longer submersion in the cold spring water, than is just sufficient to occasion a temporary suspension of respiration; but it is surprising to see what calmness, what complacency, the experiment produces immediately, even in the most violent.—Would that I could consult you upon this subject,

and have from you the encouraging word, *Perge!* The patient is carried blindfold to the bath; the chain in which he is fixed is raised by pullies over the bath, and by a weight attached to it, he is carried suddenly to the bottom, about six feet; then quickly drawn up. During the process, which has been repeated two or three times upon the same persons, a profound silence is observed. The alarm or fright which is experienced, appears to be highly beneficial. A threat from the keeper of submersion to one who has undergone the operation, will instantly quiet the most unruly. Whether an enlightened physician would sanction by his approbation the idea I have just mentioned to you, I cannot venture to decide; but it appears to me we ought to profit from every useful hint which accident may give us, and avail ourselves of discoveries in the most diversified application of them, provided we are supported by the prospect of a probability of success. A young lady, particularly intimate in our family, and who has been for three years considerably deranged in her intellects, was restored to her senses in a very great degree, by a sudden fright, which she experienced from a horse she had been accustomed to ride taking an alarm, and running away with her. Mad persons, it is well known, who have attempted to drown themselves, have been restored to life and to their senses. These are facts which furnish valuable hints; and the noble ardour which has led the Humane Society to those

useful discoveries in the resuscitative process, seems to invite us to apply them in the way which I have mentioned.

I am, &c.

J. MADISON.

LETTER LI.

From Dr. WATERHOUSE.

My Dear Sir, *Cambridge, Dec.* 18, 1792.

I am pleased, much pleased, with Dr. May's Treatise on Consumptions. I have been long dissatisfied with the old mode of treating this too fatal disorder, and was glad to see any probable plan that deviated from it. The first writer I have met with, who dared to deviate from the old track was *Marryat*, and the second is *May*. It is certainly true that the genuine inflammatory diathesis does not exist in the phthisis pulmonalis. It never is the *synocha* fever. It is a disorder crowded with symptoms contra-indicating repeated bleedings. Its essence is a peculiar debility, or if I may be allowed to coin a word to express *my* meaning, a *slack twistedness* of the glandular system. When I received that Essay, I was in the midst of my course. I gave the principles of it both theoretical and practical to my pupils, as one step nearer the truth than any thing we had as yet been favoured with. I am fully of opinion that the consumption

and scrophula are nearly a-kin, and that indeed the one is the other arrived to years of maturity.

Our venerable deceased friend * had some prejudices against the tribe of balsams, as also against the classes of tonics in general, yet he did not cure the consumption. He never seemed to make the distinction between the genuine inflammatory diathesis, and that atonic inflammation observable in the phthisis *pulmonalis*. It appears to me that this disease holds a middle space between an acute and a chronic disorder, and that we have erred in considering it merely a disease of the organ of respiration, instead of an universal one of the glandular system.

I remain, &c.

B. WATERHOUSE.

LETTER LII.

From the same.

Dear Sir, *Cambridge, April* 6, 1801.

The vaccine matter has communicated the disease again BEAUTIFULLY. I never had a more perfect case. I am confident that *well soaked* cotton threads enclosed in sealed phials is as good a mode as can be adopted for sending it across the Atlantic.

* Dr. John Fothergill. ED.

We certainly lost the genuine infection in this region, more, I now suspect, by not taking the matter early enough, than by a natural degeneration. I have applied to the Massachusetts Medical Society to know their opinion of the best mode of diffusing this matter throughout the land; for last year it got into the hands of speculators and quacks, notwithstanding every effort of mine to prevent it, which one of my friends at Bath seems to have misunderstood. This opportune supply of matter has been of greater service to me than you at a distance can imagine. I rejoiced that I could announce in the newspapers that my fresh supply of recent matter came from my friend Dr. Lettsom, because they know that it was from you I received the very first hint of such a disease as the *cow-pox*.

I remain, &c.

B. WATERHOUSE.

LETTER LIII.

From the same.

Cambridge, April 22, 1801.

My Dear Friend,

Since writing the enclosed, I received your parcel, containing the two publications on the cow-pox, and also a packet from Dr. Jenner with *fresh* matter, and a lengthy and most admirable

letter. It was, like his publications, plain and lucid beyond his compeers; displaying that perspicuity and dignified simplicity which is the peculiar ornament of genius. His letter is (excuse my enthusiasm) a ray of light from the East, and oh! that the reflected ray might become more brilliant; and even generative at the point of repercussion! I shall write to this *primitive apostle* by the Galen; should you in the mean time see him, make my most cordial acknowledgments to him: tell him he receives not only my thanks, but the thanks of the American public; for the name of *Jenner* is familiar in every village in New England. Is it not extraordinary that not a single attempt has been yet made with this inoculation in Pennsylvania, or any where to the southward of New York, and by one person only in Virginia where I sent it?

I should be gratified to know more of Jenner's personal history. Is he not a son of Oxford, or Cambridge? I have never heard any particulars concerning him; but from his logic, I suspect he is a son of one of them, or else he is like Franklin, one of Nature's own pupils. Some men are destined to follow the rules of colleges, but with others, *rules follow them.*

I remain, &c.

BENJ. WATERHOUSE.

P. S. The box for you is in the ship's cabin, marked J. C. L.

LETTER LIV.

From Dr. Hosack.

Dear Sir, *New York, Oct.* 23, 1809.

Dr. Joel Hart of this city proceeds on a visit to London. He is desirous of being introduced to your acquaintance. Dr. H. received his education in London, and is a graduate of Leyden; your attention to him will oblige me, and be gratifying to him.

I am now putting to press a work in which I have been many years engaged—a History of the Yellow Fever, from its first appearance in the United States to the present time; and as far as I have been able to procure satisfactory documents, I have extended my inquiry to the West Indies, South America, and its late introduction into the South of Europe. I make it entirely a tropical disease, produced by heat, and acting upon the stranger or new-comer from a northern latitude, and rendered contagious by an impure state of the air, such as occurs in camps, hospitals, and especially on shipboard. In this way it has been introduced into the United States and the South of Europe; for I cannot believe that it has in any one instance been generated in a temperate climate, where even, when introduced, it only exists at that season of the year when heat and other

consuming circumstances assimilate it to that which gave it birth.

I also go particularly into the mode of treatment, and the means of prevention, embracing the laws of quarantine. I hope the facts I have assembled will counteract the mischievous doctrines propagated by our friends Rush and the Editors of the Medical Repository, of the non-contagiousness of this disease, and its generation in the United States.

The first volume I hope to send you in about three months: this will be entirely historical. The second will contain a description of the disease, its causes, characteristic symptoms, &c.

I am, Dear Sir, yours truly,

D. HOSACK.

LETTER LV.

Dr. CURRIE to Dr. LETTSOM.

Philadelphia, Dec. 12, 1801.

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The measles, imported into this city by a vessel from Ireland, last June, are now epidemic here. This is contrary to the observations of Sydenham, who says, this disease is only epidemic in the vernal

season, beginning in February, gradually increasing till May, then coming to its height, and continuing epidemic till the summer solstice, after which it declines as rapidly as it advanced previously to that time.

WM. CURRIE.

LETTER LVI.

Dr. MITCHILL to Dr. LETTSOM.

Dear Sir, *New York, Dec. 3, 1800.*

In scientific researches we are not idle in America. Dr. Priestley works with as much diligence as ever he did in Britain, and has really overturned some part of the French Chemistry. His late experiments, published in his pamphlet on the refutation of the doctrine of the composition of water, lead to a belief that azote is a compound, and that azotic air is but a modification of water. He insists, that the electric spark passed through a mixture of inflammable and oxygenous airs, formed not water but nitrous acid. The details of his other pieces, particularly the series of letters addressed to myself, may be seen in the volume of our periodical Miscellany, published at New York, under the title of Medical Repository, as well as my plan of reconcilement by striking *hydrogen* out of the nomen-

clature, and substituting phlogiston in its place. Professor Woodhouse, of Philadelphia, is labouring zealously in the cause of chemistry; and though an opponent of Priestley in some points, by no means an entire adherent to the Parisian doctrines; on the contrary, he has lately forwarded to the National Institute an account of some experiments which cannot be explained upon their principles. Some experiments which I lately made myself on the *rotten wood* of our forests, convince me that Rouelle was mistaken in asserting the pre-existence of potash in vegetables. The wood of decayed trees, when macerated in water, has not the least tincture of alkalescency; on the other hand it contained an acid. This fixed vegetable alkali I therefore consider a compound, formed in the fire during the process of incineration. If I hazard a guess concerning its constitution, it would be, that it is a mixture of the base of *phlogisticated air with carbon.* I am equally well satisfied that the like is true of *soda,* and that it is in common cases the offspring of the fire; yet, from much consideration, I am also persuaded, the alkali of animal bile is formed by synthesis, from its constituent parts in the viscus which secretes it. If a physiologist should be asked, what is the function and use of the liver? he would answer, philosophically, by replying, its principal use was "*to prepare or manufacture soda for the ordinary wants of the constitution, which, flowing out, in company with its bitter menstruum, alkalized the intestines, and,*

as far as its power extended, neutralized septic acid, and other mischievous fluids taken in or engendered there."

The exciting cause of our pestilential fever is so well established to be of an acid nature, proceeding from putrefying substances, that the facts are incontrovertible. The analogy between hectic fever and some other intermittents, which are but lighter grades of yellow fever, &c. led me lately to inquire experimentally into the truth of an opinion, held by several eminent men, that aërated pus was of an acid quality. By an experiment made in our hospital, it appears that the matter of buboes and foul cutaneous syphilitic ulcers, becomes in a few hours so sour as to turn litmus paper red; while good and equable pus of sores, in a healing condition, gives no indication of such a quality at all. This seems to me to evince the local production of *septic virus*; in bad ulcers to explain their corroded appearance; by its absorption, to account for hectic fever; by its exhalation, in some cases, to explain what is meant by malignant and infectious ulceration; and, lastly, the great and unparalleled benefit of alkaline applications, in rectifying what is therein amiss.

With great regard and respect,

I remain, faithfully, Yours,

SAMUEL MITCHILL.

LETTER LVII.

From the same.

New York, May 30, 1802.

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I am more and more satisfied, that a pestilential vapour, and of an *acid quality* too, exhales from the surface of the earth, where organized bodies are undergoing corruption; and facts exist, putting it beyond any doubt, that alkaline salts and earths are not only the natural correctors of this mischievous acidity, but that with regard to inanimate substances, they are the greatest *antiseptics* of which we have any knowledge. I have called this acid the *Septic*.

Yours, &c. S. M.

LETTER LVIII.

From the same.

Dear Sir, *New York, Aug.* 3, 1803.

There has an occurrence befallen us which, on account of its great importance to physic and to trade, I ought to mention. A British ship from

Portsmouth has, within a fortnight, laid at a wharf but a few yards distant from my house. She was in an uncommonly nasty condition; her ballast had not been changed for years, and her top deck and all her interior was foul with excrementitious and other matters derived from three regiments of soldiers, who had successively been transported in her. All was healthy on board; nothing of sickness, more than is usual any where near the ship, nor in that quarter of the city. Yet on board that ship, exposed to a sunshine which excited heat enough to raise the thermometer 93° in the shade, British sailors were attacked by a distemper which killed them, after symptoms of hemorrhage from the mouth and ears, and of black vomit.

Now, according to the contagionists, this disease ought to be considered as imported from England, and the English must father it, unless they will agree to allow us the local accumulation of filth, nastiness, and excrement on ship-board, and the conversion of them to septic venom or other fever-exciting agent in the summer heat of New York.

These events have passed under my own eyes, and I am satisfied that, as in this instance, the uncleanliness of British vessels is the cause of the evolution, under tropical suns, of much of that pestilential gas, which destroys the crew and passengers, and then is most ungenerously charged upon foreign climates, and the contagiousness of peopled places beyond sea.

You may rely on it, Sir, that more than half

these mischiefs are owing to the foul condition of your ships.

The materials which might have remained quiet or feebly active in your temperate latitudes, and below the level of your cool ocean, near a ship's bottom, will change to poison, and make dreadful havock, in a heat of 89°, 95°, or more, in the shade, of 120° in the sunshine, and of 73½° at the depth of ten feet below the level of sea water. While these are our heats, your summer heat is rated at 76°, and the temperature of your sea proportionably low; your vessels, therefore, may navigate your seas with impunity, when at the same time they contain the ingredients of that dreadful disorder and misery within them, ready, with increase of heat, to burst into action, and which does commonly manifest itself when they are exposed to heats like ours, or those of the West Indies and the Coast of Africa. Your captains will never admit their own uncleanliness, as that would argue misconduct; they therefore throw the blame of the sickness they experience upon the climate and the people abroad. Their physicians and philosophers believe them; and as there has been contrived a fine story about *contagion from distant lands, imported in British ships, and spreading from man to man, at a terrible rate, &c. &c.*; with a great deal more of such groundless notions; these have been printed in your books, and taught in your universities; and from these two sources I and others learned the whole system of doctrines

therewith connected. But, Doctor, you may rely on it, the chief mischief exists on ship-board. There is not such a difference between our nation and another as they are apt to think; and there is no contagion in yellow fever as there is in small-pox. To remedy the evil, you must alkalize your ships as you do your houses, and not think they will cleanse themselves, or be cleansed, by a little paltry muriatic or nitrous vapour.

Yours, &c. SAMUEL MITCHILL.

LETTER LIX.

Dr. W. THORNTON to Dr. LETTSOM.

My dear Friend, *Tortola, May* 22, 1786.

I have sent some of the bark of the cinquona, or *cinchona Caribbeana*, Linn. Sp. Plant. 245. Philos. Transac. Vol. LXVII. page 504. Dr. Wright's description of, &c. I have made some experiments upon it, but my train is not yet finished. I have likewise taken a drawing of it, but the drawing in the Phil. Trans. is sufficiently exact to have a good idea of it. It is, however, less than nature; and I find he only mentions one species. The characters appear the same, but the leaves of one (No. 1) are much more curled than the other, and grow more in branches; the other (No. 2) more opposite and

regular, darker-coloured, smoother. The bark of this latter of a deep brown, inclining to red, and similar in colour to the common Peruvian bark. The first more green, and a great deal lighter, but more bitter, and, in my opinion, stronger. I will say nothing of my experiments now, because I will send the bark itself, which I had collected some time ago. Proof spirit is, however, their proper menstruum, and they yield much more rosin and gum than the *cinchona officinalis*. I am preparing a Dissertation on them, and mean to send it to my friend, at some future period. In *Newman's Chemistry*, by Lewis, Vol. II, Ed. 2d 8vo. page 89, he says, that "*Vaillant, a celebrated botanist at Paris, assured me, that he knew six sorts, and confirmed the account given by Lemery and Pomet, that Potosi affords the best, &c.*"

The bark I have found here resembles more the one described by Dr. Wright, as mentioned above, than one described by Mr. Guy Davidson, found in the Isle of St. Lucia. Phil. Trans. Vol. LXXIV, page 452. Dr. Wright says, in his description, that the flavour of the bark, at first, is sweet, with a mixture of the taste of horse-radish, and of aromatics of the East; but what I have found here has at first the taste of liquorice. I have sent some of the bark of the *Geoffræa Jamaicensis inermis*, described by Dr. Wm. Wright, of Jamaica, &c. Phil. Trans. Vol. LXVII, page 507, Art. XXVIII. It is plentiful here, and if found of great use, I can procure thee more.

I have not tried this; but the *Cinchona Caribbæa* I have given very often, and cured with it not only many fevers, but dropsies, that were deemed incurable. It affords more extract than the Cascarilla, both by spirit and water, and in these respects nearly equal of gum and rosin.

Thy affectionate Friend,

WM. THORNTON.

LETTER LX.

From the same.

Washington, Dec. 11, 1793.

My worthy and excellent Friend,

This has been a long night of silence and death.

The city of Philadelphia has exhibited such a spectacle of mortality as I was never before witness to. The scenes were so affecting, that I cannot think of describing them; but I have sent thee a pamphlet which, though ill written, will give thee a tolerable idea of a great part. I think, however, that the account is under-rated, at least, two thousand.

Great disputes have arisen, whether the disease was imported, or originated here: it was never communicated in the country, and therefore predisponent causes, at least, were only prevalent in *this* city. I think the air was here one mass of infection. Those who retired into the country, in

the early stage of the disease, though infected, received the most solicitous attention from their relatives; and some even laid in the same bed with the diseased; but though the infected died, not one instance can be produced that others experienced any bad consequences.

The necessaries of Philadelphia are almost without exception made with large reservoirs in the ground, from ten to twenty feet deep, or more, and from six to ten feet diameter. They are circular, and walled round with stones or brick; some of these are not cleansed for many years; seldom oftener than every five or six, but more frequently from ten to twenty. Imagine only the effect of all this matter in a very hot season! I declare I always dreaded these in summer, and used frequently to pour into mine a quantity of the ley of ashes, with quick lime. The lime, put in by itself, formed, with the fœtid effluvia, a volatile alkali, as I experienced; but the fixed alkali rendered it caustic, and the fœtor was entirely absorbed in a few minutes, and the place rendered perfectly sweet. I do not imagine that the disease was absolutely produced in Philadelphia, because it was known to be in several of the West India Islands, previous to its appearance in that city. It might have been imported, as is generally believed, but to render this miasma sufficiently active, it might require the aid of other effluvia.

By very late accounts, the same disease rages with astonishing malignity at Kingston, in Jamaica;

also in some of the Windward Islands, and carries off an incredible number. I think that more people in this city were carried off by the very copious bleeding, and violent and repeated purges of jalap and calomel, than would have died if nothing had been done.

In all diseases which are inflammatory, in the first instance, it is the special duty of a physician to guard against the subsequent debility and dangerous prostration of strength. How improper then to take away such quantities of blood! But I leave the consideration of the case to thee. We fled from the city, and even from my house in the suburbs, the number of sick and dead that were carried past the house was so great. I have seen five coffins in a cart at once. My wife lost her kind and only aunt, who stayed but one week in the city after we left it. We have no relations here now, but her mother, who is one of the best of women. We all returned a few days ago, and are very thankful for the good health we enjoy. I was taken with every symptom of the fever, and saw, from my sick bed, many dying in different rooms opposite; but I pursued a more moderate mode, and got well in about *a week*, though I was reduced, in one day, to a very low state, by the violence of the fever, vomiting, and head-ache.

I am, my dear Friend,

Most affectionately thine,

WM. THORNTON.

LETTER LXI.

Dr. Mease to Dr. Lettsom.

Dear Doctor, *Health Office, State Island, Oct. 29, 1797.*

While Providence is desolating Europe by the sword, he has been inflicting disease on the western world. Philadelphia, Baltimore, Norfolk, and Providence, have each been visited this season with malignant fevers, the mortality of which has been very great, but at present is happily subsided. Frost is the great enemy of our epidemics. At Norfolk, the disease is attributed by all to the exhalations of that place. At Providence it was said to have been imported. I have not heard what is the real source of the disorder at Baltimore; but I strongly suspect, from its having first appeared in the most filthy part of the town, that it originated in the place. Various opinions have been entertained respecting the origin of our fever. Strong prejudices have induced most persons to believe it was imported in one or two vessels, on board of which there were some vague accounts, of sick persons secreted when they passed this place, or of deaths that had happened many weeks before they arrived. But the true cause, I believe, of the disease, was the stench emitted from the Snow Navigation, that arrived on the 24th July, after a very long passage, with a cargo of a variety of

vegetable and animal matters in a state of putrefaction. When the vessel began to discharge, an offensive smell was perceived to be diffused over the whole neighbourhood, and the inhabitants and merchants near the wharfs immediately became sick, together with the crew of the vessel. From thence it spread through all the city, but the inhabitants, quickly taking the alarm, fled to the country, and thereby occasioned the number of deaths to be far less than in the fever of 1793.

The extreme unwillingness of our citizens to believe that a malignant fever can be generated among us, makes them grasp at every slight remains of present or past sickness on board a ship, on which to fix the disorder; and some of our physicians, to favour the popular idea, have attempted to trace our late disorder to that cause; but the facts that have been brought forward in support of it are very equivocal; and I therefore forbear to mention them to you, as the subject is now canvassing, and I will forward you all the publications, by some of the passengers in the William Penn.

I will only mention, that the disease very nearly resembled that of 1793; but Dr. Stevens, of St. Croix, who arrived in the height of the fever, has declared, that it was not the real West India yellow fever. Bleeding and mercury were the remedies used by all, except Dr. Stevens; he used only the latter. It was more malignant than in 1793. Six physicians have died. Among these the only persons you may have known were Pleasants and

Dobell. Dr. Rush is well. Our Indian ships have brought over an interesting work by Dr. M'Clean, of Calcutta, on epidemic fevers; in which it is attempted to prove, that they never arise from contagion, but are always produced by certain vicissitudes of the atmosphere.

Yours, &c. J. MEASE.

LETTER LXII.

From the same.

Dear Sir, *Philadelphia, Dec.* 12, 1798.

Boston, New London, and New York, have been affected by malignant fevers, as well as Philadelphia, Marcus Hook, Chester, and Wilmington on the Delaware, and Petersburgh in Virginia. To the eastward, the opinion as to the local origin of the disease is unanimous. In Philadelphia the citizens are still divided; but the superstitious notion of the importation of the disease is daily dying away; and I am happy to find that the Government have admitted the possibility of its domestic origin; as appears by the Governor's address to the Legislature on the opening of the present session. Every one, moreover, is agreed as to the necessity of a plentiful supply of fresh water to our health; and I am of opinion that this important measure will be effected in the course of the next year, either from Schuylkell or Delaware.

It is curious to notice the difference of theory on this subject: the advocates for importation say that it will render "the air of our city a worse recipient for contagion;" while common sense tells us, that the causes of exhalation which produce the fever will be thereby destroyed.

I remain, &c.

J. MEASE.

LETTER LXXIII.

From the same.

Dear Sir, *Philadelphia, Feb. 15, 1799.*

My last to you was under date of May 1; since that period our city has been again afflicted by the return of a malignant fever, which was, if possible, more unmanageable and fatal than either of the fevers of 1793 or 1797. As usual, the College of Physicians endeavoured to trace the disease to the importation of foreign human contagion; but it has already been shewn that eight cases of the fever appeared in various parts of the city before the arrival of the suspected vessels. Our Academy of Medicine, instituted Jan. 1798, have succeeded by their repeated publications in convincing the citizens of the domestic origin of the fever from exhalations; and active measures are now taking to obtain a plentiful supply of running water in the city, from a source thirteen miles dis-

tant. Hitherto all dependence for security has been placed upon quarantine; but the repeated attacks of the fever have convinced the public of the inutility of an entire reliance upon that measure, and taught them the propriety of looking at home for the source of their misfortunes.—New York was also afflicted, and the Corporation of that City are making great exertions to supply it with fresh water, for culinary purposes, and for washing the streets. Several of our other towns were afflicted by the disease; and it is calculated that not less than 10,000 persons have been carried off by it in the course of the last summer and autumn in the United States.

I remain, &c.

J. MEASE.

LETTER LXXIV.

From the same.

Dear Sir, *Philadelphia, June 5*, 1802.

Since I did myself the pleasure of writing to you last, our city has been visited by a dreadful and sore affliction. This has been nothing less than the prevalence of a dreadful epidemic, which nearly resembles in its symptoms the yellow fever of the West Indies, although different in its nature therefrom. It raged from the latter end of July to the beginning of November with great

mortality. Between 4 and 5000 citizens were carried off; and I have no doubt but many more would have fallen victims, had not half the people left the city. Our physicians have been much divided in their opinions of the origin as well as the treatment of the disease. Dr. Rush, who had some of the first patients in it, early apprized the citizens of the danger to be apprehended; and asserted that it was highly contagious, and proceeded from a quantity of damaged coffee, landed on a wharf near to which the disease first appeared. Others asserted for some time that no disease but the common remittent bilious fever of the season prevailed, which, however, was soon disproved by more deaths having occurred than ever had been observed from the same cause before, and by the disorder being evidently traced from the place where it first broke out to other parts of the city. It was then asserted to be imported, and not generated among us; but neither the time, place, nor vessel, supposed to have brought it could be ascertained. This opinion, then, was no more than an unqualified assertion, as no arguments have been adduced to prove it. Dr. Rush has entered largely into the history of the origin of the disease, and proves, from many corroborating facts, that coffee, or any other putrid vegetable, is capable of producing contagious disorders; but this had been publicly denied by many physicians in this city. No less contrariety of opinion prevailed respecting the treatment of the disease: while

some continued to consider it as a putrid complaint, even after the approach of the cool weather had rendered it evidently inflammatory. Dr. Rush and some others altered their mode of practice, and treated it as any other inflammatory fever, by a strict observance of the antiphlogistic regimen. It was by this mode, which I constantly followed, that I was cured of two very severe attacks. I had observed that the disease had changed from the low form, to one of a directly opposite nature, about the first of September. Dr. Rush is preparing a complete History of the disease, which he intends publishing in the Spring, from observations made at the bed-sides of a vast number of patients, and not in the usual mode, from other authors' descriptions and remarks. It will therefore contain a faithful history of this dreadful epidemic. The faculty suffered in common with other people; and except those who fled from the city, there were but three who had not an attack of the disease. It proved fatal to Drs. Hutchinson and Pennington, both of whom are very much regretted. To the office of the former, as physician to the port, I have been appointed, in conjunction with Dr. Samuel Duffield.

I remain, &c.

JAS. MEASE.

LETTER LXV.

From the same.

Philadelphia, Nov. 24, 1803.

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When I wrote the enclosed, our city enjoyed unusual health; but unfortunately, a few days after the date of my writing, a malignant fever broke out near the water, and prevailed very generally in the vicinity, until near the latter end of October. The College of Physicians was entirely silent as to its origin; but this is certain, that not one attempt has been made to trace it to importation, no vessel arrived during the whole summer, to which it could, with any reason, be ascribed. The fever was generally observed to be less inflammatory than in former years, and in most cases was cured by sweating and purgatives.

J. M.

LETTER LXVI.

From Dr. WARREN.

Dear Sir, *Boston, May 30*, 1790.

The Influenza, well known in Europe, pervaded the whole United States in the course of the last autumn. The symptoms with which it was at-

tended were much the same with those described by Dr. Fothergill in his work, and by Dr. Hamilton in his letter to you, contained in the Memoirs of the Medical Society of London, as attendant on the epidemic of 1782. Similar methods of treatment with those therein recommended, were generally found successful. It prevailed here in November and December; at Georgia, the most southern State in the Union, in September; and in the British Government of Nova Scotia in December.

The present Spring with us has been remarkable for an epidemic, almost as universally prevalent as that in the Fall; the symptoms, however, were extremely different, so far at least as they have fallen under my own observation. In the latter the affection was almost entirely confined to the Schneiderian membrane; insomuch that though the same disease has undoubtedly frequently made its appearance in this country before, yet from its assuming the form of a *catarrhal fever*, it has never been noticed under any other denomination. In the former this membrane was seldom diseased. The attack was for the most part sudden and violent, generally without any cough at this period, without coryza, and without those pungent pains (so remarkable in the Influenza) about the frontal sinuses. I do not recollect seeing a single instance of that sense of stricture in the antra Highmoriana, which in many cases attended the sick in the Fall. The predominant complaint at the seizure was

violent pain in the back and limbs, sometimes with head-ache, often without, and rarely preceded by very severe rigour. The pulse frequent, seldom very full; sometimes, however, hard, and attended with peripneumonic affections. The tongue oftener dry than in the epidemic of the Fall, but, like that, covered with but little saburra.

In this stage an emetic generally removed all the complaint, in thirty-six or forty-eight hours, except the debility. This was attended with loss of appetite, and frequently continued for several days afterwards. Small doses of emetic tartar, combined with an opiate preparation, were sometimes necessary to determine to the skin, promote expectoration, and relieve a slight cough, with which some were afflicted.

Those who did not take the emetic in the beginning were not so completely relieved by it afterwards, and the cure was often protracted to the term of two or three weeks. In no disease do I recollect ever to have met with such immediate and sensible success from medicines of this class, as in that which I am describing; and this, I may remark, was by no means in proportion to the quantity of matter evacuated from the stomach; for the relief was as complete when nothing was discharged but the substances just taken down, as when large quantities of bile were ejected.

The efficacy of the emetic seems to have depended upon the relaxation of the cutaneous vessels consequent on the nausea which it excited,

and upon the force of reaction in the act of vomiting, produced by the contraction of the diaphragm and of the abdominal muscles. The facility with which the severe pains in the breast and the stitches in the side, experienced by some, yielded to this remedy, seems to confirm the hypothesis that they were doubtless spasmodic, and to remove the spasm was the evident indication. I must, however, remark that the sweats with which this disease terminated, were by no means so profuse as in the autumnal epidemic; they were rather a moderate and universal diaphoresis.

Children under eight years of age commonly escaped it, as they did also that of the Fall; few adults were exempt from its ravages; and I cannot find that the aged were less subject to it than others. Most who died were of the latter class; yet the bills of mortality were remarkably enlarged in all ages at the epidemic period. It began about the middle of last month in this town, and spread as universally through the country as through the metropolis; and that with such astonishing rapidity, that it was scarcely possible to notice any circumstances that might lead to the ascertaining the degree of its contagion. It is now about three weeks since it ceased in the capital, and we have not yet obtained any accurate histories of its progress in the country. The first appearance of it is said to have been earlier than here, pretty high up, upon the Hudson river; thence it is said to have proceeded down Connecticut river, and to

have bent its course hither; after which we heard of it at Portsmouth, sixty miles eastward, before it appeared at Salem, which is forty miles on this side the capital of New Hampshire. At New York, as far as I can learn, its appearance was somewhat later than here; and our beloved President, Washington, is but now on the recovery from a very severe and dangerous attack of it in that city.

From all accounts which I have been able to collect, bleeding was sometimes, but seldom, had recourse to; blistering very commonly, and almost always, with success, especially in cases where the disease assumed the form, as it was often observed to do, of a rheumatic affection.

Whether this is a variety of Influenza, or a new disease with us, I am at a loss to determine. The first stage of it appears very dissimilar from it, but the last approaches nearer to a likeness. I have not met with any account of it under this form, and can scarcely believe that the difference of season is sufficient to explain the variation of symptoms; nor so far as I can learn, are there any instances recorded of its return in Europe at so short an interval as that of the instance in question. The periods of 1510, 57, 80, 87, 91;—1709, 32 and 3, 43, 62, 67, 75, and 82, are much more distant.

The summer preceding the Fall disease was remarkably hot: mean height of the thermometer Sept. 75°, Oct. 63°, in Pennsylvania; which is 10 degrees higher than usual. The last winter was

uncommonly mild and rainy. The diseases of that season numerous, both synocha and typhus. I could wish to know whether any such disease has appeared with you, and at what period? Your opinion whether it may be considered as a variety of Influenza, would greatly oblige me.

I am, Sir, with great respect and esteem,

Your obliged friend, and most obedient servant,

JOHN WARREN.

LETTER LXVII.

Dr. KUHN to Dr. LETTSOM.

Sir, *Philadelphia, May* 5, 1786.

I have until this time delayed to acknowledge the favour of your letter, from an expectation which I entertained, of being able to furnish you with several cases, similar in their consequences to that of Mr. J. Yard; but after the most diligent inquiry, those cases, of which I had heard various accounts, proved to be entirely local, and, indeed, confined to the jaw bone. One case, which I attended, was in many respects similar to Mr. Yard's, and of this the following history will determine your opinion: A married lady in this city had two teeth inserted into the upper jaw by Mr. Le Maquer, a celebrated dentist. These suc-

ceeded extremely well. After some time a third was likewise inserted; but this was never perfectly fixed or firm, though for six weeks she felt no kind of inconvenience. She then began to complain of a stricture about the fauces, and some symptoms of a sore throat, with a slight ulceration of the tonsils, which she attributed to cold, and for which she lost about eight ounces of blood from the arm. This not affording her any relief, my attendance was desired. I found the glands in the neck considerably swelled and hard, the gum about the last inserted tooth livid with the loss of substance, and the tooth itself much looser than it had been for some time. A slight fever accompanied these symptoms, attended with a loss of appetite and some degree of nausea. After some days eruptions appeared over the whole body, and particularly on the arms and in the palms of the hands, covered with surfuraceous scales, which were soon renewed, if removed by design or accident. There was no room for suspecting that syphilis could have been the source of any of the symptoms; and I therefore concluded, that the irritation from the last inserted tooth had occasioned the various symptoms of the disorder. The gum was repeatedly scarified; external remedies were applied to the swelling in the neck, to prevent an abscess, which there was much reason to apprehend; and small doses of neutral salts were administered, to moderate or relieve the fever. But though her complaints did not grow worse under this treatment, I had, after

two weeks attendance, the mortification to find them no better, and therefore advised the removal of the tooth, as the only method that appeared to me effectual to relieve her complaints. This, after some hesitation, was complied with; the gum, in a few days, healed and became perfectly sound; the swelling in the neck abated by degrees; the eruptions vanished, but so slowly, that it was several months before they disappeared entirely. She took a few doses of bark daily for about a week, to restore tone and vigour to the system, which had been very much impaired by anxiety and distress of mind, as well as by the disease.

I am, &c. ADAM KUHN.

LETTER LXVIII.

Dr. JOHNSTONE to Dr. LETTSOM.

Dear Sir, *Worcester, Dec.* 18, 1783.

I have lost a dear and most valuable son, by his zeal in attending the prisoners in the gaol here. A prisoner, some time ago dismissed from it, carried the fever to his own family in Droitwich, six miles from this place, famous for its salt springs and works, where fevers have seldom occurred but from contagion. This contagion has spread to the poor neighbours of the family above-mentioned; and fourteen individuals have died of it. It was carried into a country village in a different part of the

country, by other persons dismissed from the gaol. It has been said, but falsely, that persons who have been seized with the fever in attending gaols, do not infect others; these facts prove the contrary. Yet though my dear child was attended, in my house at Kidderminster, by me and all the family, only one seemed to be affected by it, and that not severely: such are the advantages of cleanliness, in mitigating the poison of contagion.

I remain, Yours, &c. J. JOHNSTONE.

LETTER LXIX.

Dr. LETTSOM to Dr. JOHNSTONE.

Dear Doctor, *London, Nov.* 12, 1785.

I acknowledge thy obliging letter of the 19th of October, and the receipt of a case since, of hydrophobia, which, although unsuccessful, is important.

I wish thou hadst leisure to review the subject of Rabies Canina, and besides the cases *, give a few concise rules, what to do immediately upon the accident. Upon this subject much has been lately written; but the more diffused those writings, the greater need of something in a plain condensed state. It will be time enough if I have thy memoir by Christmas, and for thy sake, as well as my own, I

* The cases, with additional remarks, were printed in the First Volume of the Memoirs of the Medical Society of London. Art. XIX. Ed.

wish it might be as complete as possible. Upon this account, I have sent thee some pieces professedly on the subject: thou mayest keep them thy own convenience, and return them with the memoir. The more I look into my communications, the more pleased I am with my correspondents. I feel this particularly in addressing thee, and am

Respectfully, J. C. LETTSOM.

Pray Doctor use better ink, otherwise we cannot say, "scripta manent."

Sauvages sur la Rage.
Société Royale sur la même.
Hamilton on Canine Madness.

LETTER LXX.

Dr. JOHNSTONE to Dr. LETTSOM.

Dear Sir, *Worcester, Dec. 25, 1785.*

I return your books with many thanks for your very friendly desire to have my ideas as acceptable and useful as may be. Indeed, the public, whom we serve, cannot be too much respected in matters of publication. Physicians of a certain reputation have little to gain, and may lose much. It is shocking that works of great merit have had this misfortune, and that Harvey lost patients by his works.

I have read the Memoirs with much attention, and have balanced impartially what is advanced for

or against the value of mercury. The evidence appears much in its favour; only it does not always prevent, and, when hydrophobia has appeared, has but seldom succeeded; and has been given indiscreetly. But what medicine has not been given indiscreetly? and what medicine has not failed? Mercury has failed in venereal diseases: is it therefore no longer to be applied? Such reasoning is inadmissible, in my poor opinion.

I remain, your faithful friend,
and obliged servant,
J. JOHNSTONE.

LETTER LXXI.

From the same.

Dear Doctor, *Worcester, June* 16, 1786.

Dr. Monro's new work, and Waller's plates, on the Visceral Nerves, have recalled my attention to the uses of the ganglions of the nerves. Every work which I have since seen strengthens my doctrine: those two, very much. In short, I think it certain that by them (the ganglions,) our vital motions are rendered involuntary; that they are, to a certain degree, by them also insensible of natural and morbid stimuli, &c. &c. and that the evidence for this is as obvious, and as conclusive, as that by which we believe nerves in general to be the means of sensation and voluntary motion. Your readiness

in sending me the tracts on hydrophobia makes me hope you will communicate with the same readiness any interesting tracts which relate to the subject of the ganglions and nerves, published subsequently to mine. Mons. Vicq d'Azyr seems doing something on the anatomy of the brain and nerves, in the Mém. de l'Acad. des Sciences, but I have seen none of the late volumes of that work.

I remain, Yours, &c. J. JOHNSTONE.

LETTER LXXII.

From the same.

Dear Doctor, *Worcester, July* 20, 1786.

I have many cases on the Digitalis, with a view to a Memoir upon its powers. I think its virtues have been too much extolled. I have long tried it, and recommended a formula for our hospital Dispensatory soon after my settling in this place: viz. in 1784. It does good in anasarca and ascites, after other medicines have failed; provided the patient has strength and perseverance to support and continue its unpleasant operations; for I hardly ever find it effectual unless it excites the unpleasant nausea which characterizes its action. I therefore find the *middle doses* preferable to the smallest and the highest. In the hydrothorax its effects are both suspicious and uncertain. If it relieves, a relapse is at hand; and even a discharge of

water does not secure the life of the patient, whose death is often unexpectedly sudden in this case. This indeed often happens under all remedies in such diseases; and ossification of the valves of the heart, or polypose concretions, are the latent causes; but I own I think the Digitalis unsafe in such circumstances, and, in respect of efficacy, not superior to the medicines before employed in diseases of this genus. So that I believe our chief confidence must still be given to our old friends, notwithstanding what has been so confidently written concerning the certainty of the diuretic powers of this medicine. Dr. Baylies, physician to His Prussian Majesty, has long used it in scrophulous, and other complaints, with success; but in a letter I have the honour just now to receive from him, he says he has not yet found it advantageous in dropsies, though he has frequently tried it; however he intends to give it farther trials. In short it is one of those medicines which, like the bark, and others, has come into use, and the notice of physicians, from the practice and observation of the people. It was originally recommended in scrophulous ulcers; and from its peculiar action on the lymphatic system, I think it likely to be useful in such cases. I hope to be much instructed by your remarks.

I remain, your much obliged Friend,

J. JOHNSTONE.

LETTER LXXIII.

From the same.

Dear Doctor, *Worcester, May* 17, 1787.

I received your parcel, and am much obliged to you for the various interesting contents. I have given the volume of Medical Memoirs * a cursory perusal only, by which I see I shall often be called to look into it for much valuable information.

The first paper shews much taste, and an ingenious use of ancient learning †.

The curious cases of palpitation ‡ suggest a new indication in diseases of the organs of circulation; in which Nature, labouring for existence, calls in new aids. In laborious breathing, too, new muscles are called into action to assist respiration in asthmas.

Dr. Sims's observations on obstructions of the Eustachian tube §, suggest useful habits. His Essay on the Scarlatina ‖ is truly practical and excellent. I feel a pleasure in observing, that the short sketch I lately sent on the same disease, as

* Memoirs of the Medical Society of London, vol. I. Ed.

† On the character of Æsculapius. This paper was written by the celebrated Jacob Bryant. Ed.

‡ Cases of palpitation of the heart, attended with peculiar symptoms, by Dr. Lettsom, art. 4. Ed.

§ Observations on deafness, from affections of the Eustachian tube, art. 5. Ed.

‖ Of the scarlatina anginosa, as it appeared in London in the year 1786, art. 32. Ed.

it appeared nine years ago in this country, has the merit of agreeing very nearly with the Doctor's practice, which is the more to be remarked, as we both differ considerably from Dr. Withering's account of the same disease.

Your paper on the quassia * will undoubtedly bring a valuable medicine into more general use.

On reading your ninth article †, I recollect a very few cases: two or three at most, in which the hydrocephalus internus was cured. But mercury has not succeeded with me, though I doubt not it has with others, as well as in your practice. I have applied it both internally and externally in great quantities, and have been surprized to find no kind of effect, no operation, or evacuation produced by it. This shews that mercury acts by its stimulus on the solids; and in the cases in which I applied it, the disease was so far advanced as to render the system insensible to stimuli; which is itself a fact worthy of observation.

I have ventured to assert, that diseases affecting the heart only, are not productive of, or indicated by, sense of pain in that organ. Distension of the pericardium, and pressure on the pleura and thorax, produce pain, when much pressed by distensions of the heart and its vessels, and in aneurisms, extravasations, and ruptures. This is evi-

* Some remarks on the effects of lignum quassiæ amaræ, art. 7. Ed.

† Observations on some cases of hydrocephalus internus, by Dr. Lettsom, art. 9. Ed.

dent in your eighteenth article; and in the remarkable enlargement of the heart, in your eleventh article; and is no less evident, if critically examined, in the collections of Bonetus, Morgagni, and Lieutaud.

I intended to have added a remark or two on a few cases in which I have succeeded in curing the constrictions of the œsophagus, suggested by Mr. Wathen's excellent paper: but being interrupted, I shall only conclude by expressing a vigorous hope that the contents of this Volume, by the usefulness of the matter, will do honour to the Society, and make the public eager to possess its labours.

Yours, &c.

J. JOHNSTONE.

LETTER LXXIV.

From the same.

Dear Doctor, *Worcester, Nov.* 27, 1789.

I am more of your mind as to Digitalis, than formerly; it has succeeded with me in some instances; but success is uncertain, and purchased at a risk which is very deterring.

I have read a few articles in Cullen's Materia Medica. It is a valuable work. In the article of opium, I disapprove of the distinction of stimulating and sedative powers: it may be stimulative to the tongue and on the palate, but its *powers* are all

sedative. A grain of pepper has much more stimulus to the sense than a grain of opium; if so much is to be attributed to the stimulus of a grain of opium, surely such effects must be greater in a *grain of pepper*; but who thinks of the consequences of so inconsiderable a dose of this powerful stimulant? *à fortiori*, what is to be expected as to stimulant power from a grain (of opium) of a much weaker stimulus? but I must have done. Parce stimulis, et fortius utere loris.

Farewell, my dear Friend,
and be always such to
J. JOHNSTONE.

LETTER LXXV.

From Dr. JOHN JOHNSTONE.

Dear Doctor, *Birmingham, Feb. 12, 1803.*

It has, I believe, been usual in the London Medical Society, to have some account of their eminent deceased members presented to them. The friendship and correspondence which so long subsisted between yourself and my father permit me to hope that you will undertake this task. I shall be happy to send you sufficient notices of the events of his professional life for this purpose, whensoever your leisure or your inclination allow you to call upon me.

I am now preparing for the inspection, and I trust the conviction, of the public, the evidence

that my father was the discoverer of the power of mineral acid vapours to destroy contagion. I can produce a regular chain of undeniable evidence, that he used the muriatic acid before 1756, to the last hour of his life; and I trust the facts to be adduced will prove, that muriatic acid is full as efficacious, and *more convenient* in application than the nitric.

I am, Dear Doctor,

Your faithful and obedient humble servant,

JOHN JOHNSTONE.

LETTER LXXVI.

Dr. LETTSOM's Reply.

Dear Doctor, *London, Feb. 22,* 1803.

Added to my professional engagements, my domestic and foreign correspondence leave me no moments of leisure; nevertheless, my regard to the memory of thy highly respectable father, would urge me to exertion as his biographer. To stand in this capacity I must beg materials, and particularly, as these may be connected with the discovery of the antiseptic effects of the muriatic acid gas. As the chief of my writing is managed in my carriage, allow me to be under as little necessity as possible to refer to authors, as I cannot sit down in my house without incessant calls.

I have been much occupied lately in assisting to form the Royal Jennerian Society, the regula-

tions of which fell upon me. To-morrow night, I hope we shall complete the organization of it, and then press our brethren throughout the empire to co-operate with us, to exterminate the small-pox.

Yesterday I received a letter from Dr. Cleghorn, State Physician, Dublin; requesting to know our plan here, and informing me of the intention of prosecuting it in Ireland.

I wish medical practitioners would strictly adhere to Dr. Jenner's direction. I fear that Dr. Pearson's last performance (Examination of the Evidence, &c.) will do infinite mischief, by disseminating an opinion, in opposition to Dr. Jenner's golden rule, that almost any period will suit for taking the vaccine fluid. Mr. Creaser's (of Bath) work is a complete antidote, but every person who reads Pearson's may not read Creaser's publication.

I am, respectfully,
J. C. LETTSOM.

LETTER LXXVII.

Dr. JOHN JOHNSTONE to Dr. LETTSOM.

Dear Doctor, *Birmingham, Feb. 23, 1803.*

I am truly obliged by the kindness you express towards the memory of my late venerable father; and I shall thankfully avail myself of your permission, to send materials for his Life, such as I have no

doubt will prove instructive to society, under the management of your elegant pen. I was fully aware, that I was adding occupation to a mind already, without ceasing, employed in the highest and most important duties; but I relied upon your well-known love of science, and your friendship for my father.

It will take some time to prepare the materials, but I will take care to send them so arranged, as to give you the least trouble possible.

Most cordially will my brother and myself co-operate in the noble scheme of exterminating the small-pox. I do not know so much of the organization of the Jennerian Society, as to take any steps that shall immediately co-operate with its instructions. We have long inoculated here, and strictly after Dr. Jenner's method; and, I believe I may say, without any one instance of failure.

With the sincerest wishes for the long continuance of your health, activity, and usefulness,

I remain, Dear Doctor, most respectfully and faithfully, your obliged,

J. JOHNSTONE.

LETTER LXXVIII.

Dr. LETTSOM to Dr. JOHNSTONE.

Dear Doctor, *London, May* 4, 1803.

I ought to have earlier acknowledged the safe arrival of thy packet, with the Memoirs, &c. The

general outline of the life is so fully delineated, as to leave me under less solicitude to render some degree of justice to the character of thy venerable parent. Having the life of a living friend under my pen, and completing a pamphlet addressed to the Critical Reviewers, I have but recently even read thy MSS. I purpose to give a bold, but short outline of the life, as there is much sameness in the life of a medical man. I shall, however, evince, that the monotonous trammels of men of this profession, when influenced by the energies of a capacious mind, will evolve into something above ordinary pursuits. This will lead me to give a kind of distinct episode, first, on the muriatic gas; secondly, on the ganglions; and then perhaps an apostrophe on the importance of these subjects, cursorily introducing the improvements in fever practice, and concluding with an eulogy on his memory, and his benefits to mankind. This, however, is only in my head, but no part has touched my pen, though the ink is ready *.

On or before the 17th of May, I purpose to send the regulations and views of the Jennerian Society. Indeed, to draw up these, which has fallen in a great measure to my lot, has engaged much of my time. To make a great body move quickly, is contrary to mathematics. We have certainly lost in velocity, in proportion to our magnitude, but now we shall

* A Memoir of Dr. Johnstone, written by Dr. Lettsom, is printed in the Second Part of the First Volume of the Transactions of the Medical Society of London. Ed.

move with more activity, having nearly arranged every thing to our wishes. We have divided the metropolis into stations or districts, to each of which are appointed medical inoculators. Our emporium, or central house, is in Salisbury court, Fleet street; our central resident, Dr. Walker; from whence, and from whose information, vaccine matter and every desideratum are gratuitously conveyed.

The bias among the people in favour of the cow-pock, is as strong as it once was against it. Four months ago, the average deaths, by the small-pox, were from six to ten each day, in London. The whole of last week 14, the week before 16, the week antecedent 19. We have a receptacle here for receiving and instructing the blind. Of these we find above one half were blinded by the small-pox. I really believe the small-pox will be exterminated.

I am, Sir, Yours respectfully,

J. C. LETTSOM.

LETTER LXXIX.

Dr. JOHN JOHNSTONE to Dr. LETTSOM.

Birmingham, April 11, 1803.

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The Influenza has been very general in this neighbourhood. I believe about every sixth person has been affected in some degree, and that one-

twentieth of these have been severely disordered, either by typhus of a milder kind, or by pulmonary affection. Even the mildest cases, those in which there have been only head-ache, and general pains, with swooning; running of the eyes and nose, with little cough; have had great dejection of spirits, and bodily weakness. Asthmatics, and persons subject to winter coughs, have, for the most part suffered severely, and their coughs have been peculiarly obstinate. It began with us in the second week of March; by the 12th, it was very common. It has now considerably declined.

I remain, Dear Doctor,

Your faithful and obliged

JOHN JOHNSTONE.

LETTER LXXX.

Dr. LETTSOM to Dr. JOHNSTONE.

Dear Doctor, *London, Oct.* 2, 1803.

It gives me real concern to become my own accuser, when I confess that I have been so immersed in different avocations, as to prevent my writing the biography I had designed. This month must be occupied in another piece of biography. In November I purpose to begin and complete your worthy father's. It will be ready for the press, I fully believe, in the period I mention, as you have already cleared the road for me, and not much would re-

main to engage my time. Two pamphlets, addressed to the Reviewers, occupied some time and attention. The concessions the Critical Reviewers have made, will, I hope, render them more guarded in their treatment of authors: for so complete a defeat they never before experienced.

I am, sincerely, J. C. LETTSOM.

LETTER LXXXI.

Dr. JOHN JOHNSTONE to Dr. LETTSOM.

Dear Doctor, *Birmingham, Oct.* 10, 1803.

I am sorry that you should have given yourself any concern or uneasiness about the intended biography. It will truly gratify me to see the venerable name of my father illustrated by your elegant pen; but it is not possible that a physician of eminence, and whose occupations are so serious and multiform as yours, can have the command of his own time.

Public opinion, I hope, is not yet asleep to the merits of your departed friend; and the interest which has been excited on the continent, by the publication of his claim to the discovery of the power of animal acid vapours to correct contagion, cannot fail to make men curious and inquisitive concerning the events of his literary and professional life.

I remain, Yours faithfully,

JOHN JOHNSTONE.

LETTER LXXXII.

From the same.

Birmingham, March 30, 1804.

Dear Doctor,

I thank you for the trouble you have undertaken, and your compliance with my request. All the reviews and magazines that have mentioned my father's discovery, have acknowledged his claim, the British Critic among the rest. There is also an excellent paper in the Monthly Magazine for the beginning of 1803, written by Dr. Hall, which fully acknowledges this claim. I am told too by Dr. Jos. Franck, of Vienna, that it makes considerable noise on the continent. I communicated it to Guyton de Morveau, but he has not answered my letter. I have sent one of my pamphlets to Dr. Carmichael Smyth, but he has not acknowledged receiving it; and as, in the course of twelve months, no endeavour has been made to refute it,* I take it for granted that my father's claim to the discovery of the power of mineral acids in a state of vapour, to destroy contagion, is indisputable, universally acknowledged, and that every other claim is silently withdrawn.

I remain, Dear Doctor,

Your faithful and obliged,

JOHN JOHNSTONE.

* Subsequently Dr. Smyth published a Reply. ED.

LETTER LXXXIII.

From the same.

Dear Doctor, *Birmingham, March* 28, 1805.

A catarrhal affection has, for the last fortnight, been pretty general in this part of the country, and especially among children, so much so, as to put us in mind of the Influenza, two springs ago. The patients are much debilitated, with quick pulse, dyspnœa, and cough. The feverish state continues about three days in the mild cases, and then terminates in obstinate cough. Small doses of ipecacuanha, and acidulous drinks, have been generally successful. I have seen no death from it. If the disease be epidemical, you will probably have seen infinitely more of it in the metropolis. At all events I know the candour of your mind too well, to doubt about sending to you this imperfect sketch.

I am, Dear Doctor,

Your faithful and much obliged friend,

JOHN JOHNSTONE.

LETTER LXXXIV.

Dr. MAHER to Dr. LETTSOM.

Dear Doctor, *Waterford, March* 22, 1783.

I transmitted some time since to Secretary Vicq D'Azyr a case of extra-uterine product of

conception, that had remained in the abdomen for the space of 21 years, and increased to a size far beyond any thing I ever heard or read of before. The product of conception, independent of the lymphatic fluid that surrounded it, weighed 17 pounds. The sac which contained it seemed to have been formed by the dilatation of the right Fallopian tube. I was the person who dissected the body, in the presence of a surgeon of this neighbourhood.

I am, Dear Sir,

Your much obliged humble servant,

RICHARD MAHER.

LETTER LXXXV.

Dr. HOPE to Dr. LETTSOM.

Dear Sir, *Edinburgh, Nov.* 18, 1782.

A few days ago I had the pleasure of receiving your letter of the 27th October.

It gives me sensible pleasure to hear that you are about giving an account of the late Dr. Fothergill, with whom I had the honour of corresponding in the most friendly manner for many years.

With respect to the rheum palmatum, I have to observe, that it is the same with the Russia, which formerly was called the Turkey rhubarb, and differs so much from the China rhubarb, that I

have long thought they are of different species, and I find Sir Joseph Banks is of the same opinion.

At first, depending on the information received from books, we kept the root 10 or 12 years in the ground, and thought that the longer we kept it, the rhubarb would be of a better quality; but experience has taught us, that the root should not remain above four years in the ground.

You may depend upon it that the rhubarb of this country is equal in quality to the best Russia rhubarb. As there is now scarce a garden in Scotland without a rhubarb plant in it, the consumption of foreign rhubarb is considerably less, and annually a small quantity is sent to London.

You know that the worthy Knight, Sir Alexander Dick, early received a Gold Medal from the Society of Arts for producing the largest quantity of dried rhubarb. The late Earl of Hopetown made some interesting discoveries with respect to its cultivation; and the late Duke of Athol had very large plantations of it.

You have heard, I dare say, that the farina of one species operates upon the seeds of another, thereby producing hybrid plants, which hitherto have not produced fertile seeds in the Botanic Garden here.

Whenever I have the good fortune of receiving seeds from abroad you shall have a share.

I have the honour of being, Dear Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

JOHN HOPE.

LETTER LXXXVI.

Sir C. Blagden to Dr. Lettsom.

Dear Sir, *Percy-street, Sept.* 2, 1791.

The chief reason for believing that the red gum of New South Wales comes from the tree now called *Eucalyptus resinifera,* is taken from the specimens sent home by Mr. White, Surgeon-General to our Settlement there, of which specimens some account is given in the Appendix to Mr. White's book. As that account was drawn up by Dr. J. E. Smith, with the specimens before him, and with the advantage of consulting Sir Joseph Banks's library and herbarium, it is the best authority that can be obtained on the subject. *Eucalyptus* is a new genus, first established by Monsieur L'Heretier. The tree in question seems to be the same that is called *metrosideros gummifera,* by Gærtner. The yellow gum issues from a kind of palm, which in fructification so much resembles an *acorus* as to be described in Dr. Solander's MSS. under the title of *acoroides resinifera.*

I am, Dear Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,

Charles Blagden.

LETTER LXXXVII.

Dr. A. FOTHERGILL to Dr. LETTSOM.

Northampton, Oct. 1, 1778.

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The plant I happened to mention in town is (as I think I then hinted) the *Gallium Aparine;* the expressed juice of which was strongly recommended last summer by some persons of credit, as very efficacious in scorbutic cases, which, you will say, is a vague term, and which I readily acknowledge. However, in the course of last summer, I tried it in some stubborn eruptive cases, attended with violent itching and serous ouzings, with so much success as to give me a very favourable opinion of its virtues.

A. FOTHERGILL.

LETTER LXXXVIII.

From the same.

Dear Sir, *Northampton, Oct.* 9, 1780.

Since you hunted down the German urine quack, of infamous memory, I find a new medical impostor has lately started up, and fixed his residence in the Adelphi, whom, if you had leisure and inclina-

tion for the chace, might probably afford excellent sport.

The reigning disease, which has for some months past infested this neighbourhood, is a remittent fever, attended with bilious vomiting, and severe spasms in the epigastric and umbilical regions; although it has very distinct and clear remissions every forenoon, the exacerbation seldom fails to return in the evening.

The *cortex*, given even liberally during the remissions, answer worse in this than any remittent I ever yet met with; though every precaution is used in evacuating the bile, and keeping the body soluble. Other practitioners confess the same, and are obliged to own that it baffles all the various methods which they have recommended, and will run its course till the patient is exhausted, or the morbid forms are totally spent. After the previous evacuations, I find *bezoar miner.* *assafœtid.* and *opium* the best methods I have yet tried, but these are sometimes baffled.

Query.—Whether the apparent vitiated state of the bile, in consequence of an uncommonly hot summer, is not the principal cause of this fever?

Putrid sore throats begin again to make their appearance, but do not yet seem to have a malignant disposition.

I remain, with great regard, &c.

A. FOTHERGILL.

LETTER LXXXIX.

From the same.

Northampton, Dec. 4, 1780.

Dear Doctor,

I embrace this opportunity, under cover to a friend, of acknowledging the obliging and instructive communication with which you favoured me last week. The relapse into intermittents, that seemed to have been cured, on the exact septenary days which you frequently remarked in and near London, was a curious circumstance, and very worthy of observation. The autumnal agues, that have been epidemic in this neighbourhood, began to appear about the equinox, and have become more and more frequent ever since. They have generally assumed characteristic marks of the former constitution being complicated with spasmodic pains in the stomach and bowels, and sometimes in the thorax. I deem these pains rather of the spasmodic than inflammatory kind, because they have had often long and distinct remissions, and even intermissions, of several hours; and instead of being removed by venesection, have been protracted, and the strength greatly reduced: at least, in such cases as have fallen under my observation. Therefore, though the disease may, during the paroxysms, much resemble the true enteritis, yet

there is reason to believe, that it is in reality of a very different nature; and I have often been inclined to think, that spasmodic flatulent colic would be a more apt term for most of the cases that I have seen. The late hot and remarkable dry summer seemed to augment and render acrid the biliary secretion; hence the frequent ejections of vitiated bile, which accompanied the disease. Whether this distemperature of the bile was the *materies morbi*, which produced the other symptoms, or only an accessary, might admit of dispute. Some eminent physicians were so clearly of the former opinion, that they styled the disease a bilious fever, or bilious colic, according as it was attended with febrile symptoms or not.

The first cases you describe so accurately partook more of the inflammatory diathesis, and therefore more properly come under the idea of enteritis than any I have yet met with. The treatment, exclusive of venesection, is quite similar to that which I have generally pursued with success. The *Ol. Ricini* deserves every encomium that can be given it, as a mild anodyne laxative. The *Pulv. Dover. Sudorif.* as a sedative and perspirative, is no less excellent; and your mode of administering it, *more enematis*, deserves attention, for the stomach being rendered so very irritable, there is no small difficulty in keeping down a proper dose in the ordinary way. Anodyne embrocations, with a large portion of *T. Thebaic.* applied to the epigastric and umbilical region, have proved good auxiliaries. In

the present intermittents, especially of the quartan type, the bark, however closely pursued, has often been entirely baffled, and yet some of these cases have yielded to gum kino, others to alum, with myrrh, &c. I have lately been surprised to find these agues prevail in all their rigour, and to affect whole families in villages situate on lofty hills and dry eminences, when some of the neighbouring villages in low valleys and marshy grounds have escaped. Such instances seem to clash with the received opinion of moisture being the chief cause of intermittents, and must "*give us pause,*" when we begin to reason on the nature of the disease: for though intermittents are perhaps the most frequent diseases that occur at certain seasons, and every person fancies he knows how to cure them; yet the various types and appearances which they assume, and the variety of contradictory opinions which still prevail among the learned concerning them, afford a very humiliating idea of our knowledge of their immediate cause.

I have only just time to add, that I shall be glad to hear from you as often as leisure will permit;

And remain,

With much respect,

Dear Sir,

Your sincere friend,

A. FOTHERGILL.

LETTER XC.

From the same.

Dear Sir, *Bath, Sept. 2*, 1791.

Miss P's case, which I greatly pity, is, I make no doubt, highly obstinate, or it would ere now have yielded to the superior care which she has already been under. The spasmodic pains which she has long suffered, and which have made such quick and surprising transitions, I cannot help thinking proceed from a gouty principle, and that nothing short of this can explain the anomalous nature of the disease. Hippocrates, it is true, asserts, that women have not the gout while the menses are regular. But I have seen more than one exception to this general rule, and am at this instant concerned for a young lady of 18, who has suffered three severe fits of the gout, clearly marked, and yet the catamenia have always been regular. You, I make no doubt, have seen similar instances. Miss P. has already begun the bath, which was so properly recommended in her case, and it seems to agree very well, and shall be pursued (as nearly as circumstances will admit), agreeably to your directions, though difficulties must be expected to occur in a constitution so highly irritable.

Yours, &c. A. FOTHERGILL.

LETTER XCI.

From the same.

Dear Sir, *Bath, Oct.* 11, 1791.

For some time past the reigning disease in this neighbourhood has been a bowel complaint, attended with diarrhœa, spasms in the bowels, universal languor, cold sweats, and a strong disposition to mortification; in which case, low fever, muttering delirium, and *subsultus tendinum*, have proved the harbingers of death; but this fatal termination has rarely happened, unless the disease was neglected in its early stage, or met with an enfeebled constitution. Some, I hear, indeed, have sunk under it in two or three days; but I have seen no such instance. The most striking symptoms I have observed in every stage of the disease, even at the beginning, is the *cold partial sweat:* an unequivocal proof of debility; and yet some practitioners, without hesitation, order venesection, and that more than once! Lately, two physicians determined thus—"*jugulare morbum.*" The event proved, as might be expected, Audax Esculapii genus!

Like the swift skuller one Physician plies,
Exerts his skill, and all his judgment tries;
Yet two Physicians, like a pair of oars,
Waft you much sooner to the Stygian shores.

Yours, &c. A. FOTHERGILL.

LETTER XCII.

From the same.

Dear Sir, *Philadelphia, Oct. 30, 1805.*

About the middle of August, this City and New York have again been visited by that awful malady, the malignant fever, on which the principal inhabitants retired into the country. Our family, and many others, went to German Town, where, with two agreeable families, boarders like ourselves, we passed our time very agreeably. Since the weather became cool, the disease *declined* fast, and the Board of Health, on the 21st instant, declared a bill of health, and people return in crowds into the city, though, I fear, prematurely. We have heard of three or four fatal events, in consequence of such precipitancy. The daily reports at New York continue, and that of yesterday noticed, during the last twenty-four hours, eleven new cases, four deaths, six cures, twenty-four remaining in the fever hospital. The setting in of frost is supposed to subdue the disease; but we have had several frosty mornings, alternating with rain and high winds.

In July my thermometer, in the open air, varied from 84° to 94°, one day 96°. To-day, wind E. with cold rain, it is down at 36°; what a contrast! In my letter to Dr. Hawes, I shall inclose a few obser-

vations on prevention, &c. for your and his opinion. The same contrariety of opinion as to the origin and nature of the disease, and mode of treatment, prevails, as heretofore. The Brunonian system prevails generally; the Cullenian criticised unjustly, and the non-contagious nature of the disease pertinaciously defended by many of the professors here, and still more violently at New York. The merchants defend this doctrine tooth and nail, and that of dissenting physicians is stifled by their overweening interest. Hence quarantines, and means of extinguishing contagion, superficially performed. The frost, indeed, suppresses it—

"Sed latet anguis in herba."

To you and yours, Dear Doctor,
Health and prosperity. Adieu!

A. FOTHERGILL.

LETTER XCIII.

From Dr. STRUVE.

Dear Sir, *Görlitz in Upper-Lausitz, June 24, 1797.*

I return my sincerest thanks for the books which you had the kindness to send me. The generous pursuit of the Royal Humane Society has been the motive to dedicate my book, "Essay on the Art of reviving apparently Dead," to that

Society, and I hope the Society will accept it kindly. I have also explained my reasons for doing so in a Latin letter written to the Society. You will find in this book, and also in the miscellaneous papers (which I send), somewhat on the Bite of Mad Dogs. I refer you to that, with a view of communicating to you my ideas upon this subject. I am of opinion that external means, applied directly after the injury is committed, are the most secure we can have recourse to. In this part of my country it is not at all a rare occurrence to see people bitten by mad dogs; and two years ago two persons died of hydrophobia. I am just now writing a paper on this subject, which I will dedicate to you. I beg the favour of your sending me not only the second volume of the Transactions of the Royal Humane Society, but if it is possible, some of the newest English medical books, in order that I may translate them into German, to communicate in this way to my countrymen the literary treasures of Great Britain. I will then send you German books, but I repeat my wish for *new* English books only, that they may not be already translated into German.

I enclose also my Essay on the Diseases of Children.

Will you be so kind to let me have your address, that my letters may the sooner and surer find you.

Yours, &c.

C. A. Struve, M. D.

LETTER XCIV.

From the same.

Dear Sir, *Görlitz in Upper-Lausitz, June* 1802.

The painful sensation from inexpressible anxiety which one feels at the departure of an esteemed and beloved friend, not knowing what may have become of him, is what I suffer at the present moment. It is now two years since I received a letter from you, although I have written several times; but perhaps my letters never reached you. A few weeks ago I received Dr. Lettsom's Observations on the Cow-pox, but no letter. Most likely I have to thank you for the book, and perhaps the letter is lost. I send you two of my works: in the "Knowledge of Life" I have endeavoured to express my individual character. When the second volume will appear, I am not able to say. With gratitude and some pride, I understand most of my works have been translated in London: may I dare hope the same of the above? You give your "Hints" out improved: how fortunate should I think myself, if I possessed the whole! I should keep them in sacred remembrance of the friendship of a Lettsom.

I take the greatest interest in the vaccine pock, and inoculate weekly, and I have found it a sure, easy, and perfect security against the human pock,

which ought to be quite suppressed, or else the ravage angel of natural pock will again soon appear amongst us. How happy should I be to have intelligence concerning the progress it has made in England and America; perhaps you will have the goodness to favour me with a work on this or any other subject. I should wish to have the following points cleared up: Will any subject who has had the small-pox take the vaccine? and if so, do you observe the regular progress of irritation, and all its symptoms? My experience is not sufficient to determine.

From the Royal Humane Society I have heard nothing for a long time, nor have I received the reports of 1800 and 1801. I hope to send something soon to the Medical Society, who have had the goodness to elect me an Honorary Member. I have written a letter on the subject of vaccina in Germany; I do not know whether the Society have received it. Favour me with a letter. The enclosed I beg you to forward to Dr. Fothergill; to him also I have written, but have not received an answer. Please to send my letter to Dr. Jenner; I know through you he will get it to a certainty. Farewell! and favour me in future with your friendship. I enclose you my silhouette; oblige me with yours.

I am, with esteem, yours,

C. A. STRUVE.

LETTER XCV.

Dr. LETTSOM's Reply.

Dear Doctor, *London, Oct.* 15, 1802.

I received thy expressions of friendship with a sincere and lively interest, and acknowledge myself to have been much improved by thy valuable communications. I have reminded my friends Dr. Hawes, Dr. Fothergill, and Dr. Jenner, of the debt of literary correspondence they owe thee; and I hope to have some of their letters enclosed in the parcel herewith transmitted.

I have sent Dr. Pearson's new performance on the Cow-Pox, though not quite friendly to Dr. Jenner.

We know very well, that the cow-pox prevents the small-pox; and the small-pox in like manner prevents the taking the cow-pox. That is, one is a certain preservative against the other; but with this difference, that it produces only one pimple or pustule, where the lancet touches, and nowhere else. This pustule is not attended with danger, and, generally, requires no application. If there ever be a febrile action, it is so little as scarcely to be perceptible. The progress of this solitary pustule is very similar to the small-pox, but the eruption is more like a vesicle of semi-purulent matter, than a pustule of matter like the small-pox. Dr. Pear-

son's book is particular as to this subject, as well as others.

At thy request, I enclose the three volumes of my "Hints," which I hope will meet with thy approbation. I send likewise some other little things, which may amuse if not instruct, and at the same time evince the respectful esteem with which I am

Thy friend,

J. C. LETTSOM.

LETTER XCVI.

From Dr. MAY.

Dear Sir, *Truro, Cornwall, May* 28, 1788.

Though I am an entire stranger to your person, yet the zeal you have constantly shewn for the promotion of medical knowledge, and my having the honour to be a graduate of the university of Leyden, from which, if I am not mistaken, you received your well-merited medical honours, are circumstances which will, I trust, make it unnecessary for me to apologize for the liberty I have taken with you in requesting your attention to the following case: During the last month I was called upon to visit E. O. on the eleventh day of her confinement with a fever of the typhus kind, accompanied with considerable malignancy. Her tongue,

lips, and fauces were covered with an offensive sordes; her countenance sunk, and expressive of the utmost anxiety and debility, with petechial appearances about the neck, an insatiable thirst, and a pulse which beat 140 strokes in a minute; nausea and vomiting were produced by every thing taken into the stomach, and she was affected with tormina, tenesmus, and a most urgent diarrhœa, the discharge produced by which was vastly offensive. A degree of muttering delirium occasionally appeared, and she had not slept for several days, although she frequently appeared to do so, and, indeed, lay sometimes for two or three hours together, in a comatose state. Along with other bad symptoms she had a very troublesome itching over the whole surface of the body, upon various parts of which she had by her own scratching, and that of her attendants, produced extravasations of blood under the cuticle. The upper lip was somewhat drawn up, together with a contracted and Hippocratic appearance of the countenance. I immediately ordered an emetic of *ipecacuanha*, mixed with a little of the *pulv. zingiber*, which produced a pretty full vomiting, and a considerable discharge of dark-coloured matter from the stomach; a fetid stool or two followed the operation of the emetic, and in a few hours the griping and diarrhœa were relieved. I directed a draught with Huxham's *Tinct. Cort.* ℥ij and *Tinct. Opii gtt.* xij in *Aq. Menth.* ℥i and *Syr. Zingib.* ℥i, to be exhibited every three hours; ordering her,

at the same time, to use wine very freely, and to quench her thirst by repeating draughts of brandy and water, as often as might be necessary. Blisters and sinapisms were also applied to the back, arms, and soles of the feet. These methods were observed for twenty-four hours, when I again saw her. The vomiting and diarrhœa had now totally disappeared, and the pulse sunk to 130, and 134. She had less of anxiety, but was still very restless, and extremely debile. As there had been no evacuation *per alvum* since the use of the enema, I ordered it to be repeated, and to avoid obstipation in future, directed an injection of the same kind to be made every twenty-four hours. Along with the draughts above mentioned, I now ordered ℥ij of the ***Pulv. Cort. Rub.*** to be exhibited, and to each draught superadded eight drops of the *Tinct. Opii*, increasing the quantity of wine to the amount of three pints, together with small portions of the ***Sp. Vin. Gal.*** in twenty-four hours. On the seventeenth day there was a considerable exacerbation, and a consequent mitigation of the febrile symptoms, and upon the twentieth they ceased altogether, and my patient is now in the enjoyment of good health. The debility which supervened, soon gave way to the *res dieteticæ*, which were largely and generously administered.

I have the honour to be,

With sincere respect,

Dear Sir,

Yours, &c. W. MAY.

LETTER XCVII.

From Dr. Cook.

Barking, Essex, Sept. 21, 1787.

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In May 1783, I inoculated Lydia Griffiths (about fifteen years of age) with matter from the natural small pox; she had about fifty large distinct eruptions, from which, on the seventh day, I took matter which succeeded in communicating the infection to other patients. In May 1786, the said L. Griffiths was taken with the usual symptoms, and had the small-pox to the amount of about four hundred distinct eruptions, from which about the seventh day, I took matter for inoculation, which succeeded very well.

I remain, &c.

R. Cook.

LETTER XCVIII.

From Mr. Carter.

Walworth, Nov. 2, 1790.

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Sunday, October 17, Ann Watkins, aged thirty years, complained of a pain in her right arm and

shoulder, which she supposed rheumatism. This continued till the Tuesday following, when a small vesication appeared a little below the elbow, over which she applied her handkerchief, supposing it arose from some accidental circumstance; however, in the space of half an hour her arm became very stiff, and on removing the handkerchief, a very extensive vesication appeared. I was sent for, and directly ordered the part to be fomented and poulticed, and gave her a gentle laxative: she was in extreme pain during the night, and the discharge of serum was very considerable. On the Wednesday it continued painful, and extremely so to the touch; small vesicles came on above and below the former, seemingly disposed to spread. She had a slight fever, and was ordered a saline mixture, with snake-root, and an opiate, which procured her a very good night. On Thursday morning her arm was less painful, and the small vesicles not more spread; her pulse weak and less frequent; the bark was directed, and the opiate continued. On Friday the small vesicles discharged a thin ichor. The fomentations were continued, with the poultices, and a small quantity of the acetated ceruss. The bark and opiate were continued. These remedies have been persevered in for three days, and the arm now appears much disposed to heal. The tumefaction has been very little in this disease.

Note by Dr. Lettsom.

During the appearance of the pemphigus, above described, I found the pulse universally weak, without much quickness, which induced me to recommend the use of bark and wine, and which the event proved salutary. The patient continued well, and engaged, as formerly, in the usual concerns of the family. On the 10th of November she imagined she had caught cold; she was attacked with a pleurisy, attended with very acute painful symptoms, and every bleeding afforded blood, cupped and covered with a thick buff or size.

I do not suppose that the latter disease was dependant on the former, but I thought it proper to ascertain these circumstances, as they might tend to form some suggestions respecting the acute and chronic pemphigus.

Nov. 18, 1790. J. C. LETTSOM.

LETTER XCIX.

Dr. BARTON to Dr. LETTSOM.

Sir, *Salisbury, Feb.* 18, 1791.

Two reasons have induced me, although I have not the honour of your acquaintance, to trouble you with the relation of the following case: the

one, that I flatter myself the very uncommon symptoms that took place during its progress, will render it not undeserving your attention; and the other, that the patient was under your care in London, previous to her coming to this place.

I delayed doing this till now, because I judged it better to wait till the event of the disease was fully confirmed.

On the 24th of last February, at eleven o'clock in the morning, I was sent for to visit Miss W. of this city. On inquiring into the circumstances of the case, previous to my seeing her, I was told, that she had been long in a poor state of health; that you had shewn her great kindness and attention while in town, which she left by your advice for change of air; that she had bathed in the sea at Brighthelmstone the preceding summer, during the time she was thought to have the gout in her feet; and that she had been subject, at times, to violent pains in different parts since that period.

I was also informed, that she had complained of much pain in her stomach before I saw her, which had increased that morning to such a degree as to deprive her of her senses.

I found the patient in bed, in a state of total insensibility; her breathing and pulse were scarcely perceptible; her eyes were closed, and on lifting the lids, the pupils appeared much dilated: these symptoms, added to the previous information I had received, left little doubt in my mind of its

being a case of retrocedent gout affecting the stomach.

The following mode of treatment was adopted: R. *'Gum assafœtid. gr.* x *solve in aq. cinnam. spirit.* ℥iss *dein adde sal. c. c. vol. gr.* v *syr. croci* ʒi. *M. ft. haustus statim sumendus, et post horas quatuor repetendus.* Bottles of hot water were likewise ordered to be applied to the soles of the feet, and renewed, as they became cold. *Applicetur quam-primum ad regionem ventriculi, vesicatorium.*

I saw her again at four o'clock in the afternoon: She shewed some faint signs of recollection, complaining much of pain in her stomach; her pulse a little better; had taken two draughts. An anodyne antispasmodic draught was ordered to be taken at bed-time.

From this time till the 2d of March following, she continued much the same, being sometimes a little better, and at others suffering the most excruciating pains in her stomach and loins. During these agonies, her shrieks were dreadful. Various antispasmodic medicines were tried, of which the *æther vitriolicus* generally gave the most speedy relief, occasioning a great discharge of wind from the stomach immediately after its exhibition. Blisters and sinapisms to the extremities were likewise occasionally interposed, together with emollient and laxative clysters, her bowels being much constipated throughout the whole of the disease.

It may not be improper here to mention a singular circumstance, that opium, in any form, so far from giving relief, generally aggravated all the symptoms.

March 2d.—This day was remarkable for being that on which (at least, as it appeared *clearly* to me, having only before had a *suspicion* of it) the disease became intermittent, and continued so till its termination.

The paroxysm came on at six o'clock in the evening, with great oscitation. This, after continuing about an hour, was succeeded by asphyxia, in which state the patient remained two or three hours. Recovering from this, she was seized with racking pains in her stomach and bowels, usually lasting four or five hours; these abating by degrees, the patient fell asleep, and awoke in the morning with a remission of all the symptoms, which became more and more complete, till the accession of the next paroxysm.

The paroxysms recurred at nearly the same hour every other day, till the 31st March, when she was attacked with a regular fit of the gout in both feet, which gradually carried off the disease. The pains in her stomach, however, returned occasionally, on any error in diet, or incautious exposure to cold.

The weakness left by the disease was so great, that a month elapsed before she could even stand, and another before she could walk without crutches. Her menses were pretty regular the whole time,

but very small in quantity. On the decline of the disease, she had the fluor albus to a very great degree. Her pulse during the paroxysms, as well as at other times, was seldom slower than 84, or quicker than 88. I have mentioned her being extremely costive the whole time; whenever a stool was procured by any means it was accompanied with great torture.

In regard to her present state of health, it is very tolerable; she sleeps well, has a very good appetite, and, with proper attention on her own part, I have little doubt but her health will still continue to mend.

I have now to mention the medical treatment of the disease, from the time I perceived it to be intermittent. At the beginning, I attempted to counteract the paroxysms by the exhibition of powerful antispasmodics, at the time of their accession. Once or twice I kept off the fit for some hours by giving a full dose of the *ol. animal.* No material good effect, however, being derived from this practice, I discontinued it. I was more successful in the use of Pyrmont water and the Peruvian bark, given on the days of the intermissions; they were exhibited in the following manner:— On the 7th of March she was directed to take in the morning fasting, a quarter of a pint of Pyrmont water cold, mixed with an equal quantity of common water boiling hot. A draught was prescribed, composed of an ounce and a half of the cold infusion of the bark, with one drachm of

Huxham's Tincture. This was taken twice a day. By the constant use of these medicines on the days of the intermissions, together with a rich nourishing diet, and the liberal use of port wine, I had the satisfaction, at the end of three weeks, to see the disease take up its residence in her feet, as above-mentioned.

I have since given the Pyrmont water in the same way to others, with the same success; and, indeed, in all complaints of the stomach and bowels, where I had reason to suspect a gouty diathesis, I have found it of the greatest service.

I have only to add further, on the subject of Miss W., that in the course of the last summer riding on horseback was very beneficial to her, and that she now uses moderate exercise with considerable advantage.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
JAMES BARTON.

LETTER C.

Dr. SEAMAN to Dr. LETTSOM.

New York, 8th *Mo.* 10, 1810.

Respected Friend,

When I was last in London, I twice called at thy house, but was not fortunate enough to find thee

at home. My state of health not permitting my long stay in that metropolis, I neither left my name nor my letters of introduction; hence I must of course be quite a stranger to thee. Thy works have made me acquainted with thee, so far as to warrant me to take the liberty of addressing a small work * (a second † copy whereof is hereby forwarded by Dr. Arden) to thy attention: calculating upon thy known liberality, in extenuation of some errors that may have been committed, in handling a subject so universally acknowledged as intricate, and one which, as yet, is but new in this country. Its novelty, however, does not render it the less important. By the accompanying sheet thou wilt perceive, that it has not been thought altogether unworthy of attention, by some of our Reviewers. If the London critics should notice it, it is to be hoped that the foregoing considerations may plead somewhat with them in apology for its inaccuracies; or at least, temper the severity of just censure with the benignity of honest candour.

I also forward thee a copy of a little practical book upon the subject of Vaccination; which, from the early interest thou hast manifested in the establishment of the new inoculation, I am in hopes will not be unacceptable. The work itself, although containing some things to which I cannot fully subscribe, appears to me to be well calculated

* Essay on Mineral Waters. Ed.

† The first was sent last year by Dr. Hart from this city.

to benefit practitioners in this country: practical works upon that subject, from your side of the Atlantic, not being so generally diffused among us as the general adoption of vaccination would seem to require.

Dr. Mitchill, who also writes thee by this conveyance, will probably give a more full account of the state and progress of medical science in this country than I, were I to attempt it, would be qualified to do; I shall therefore, at present, only further beg thee to accept my sincere acknowledgments for thy marked attention to my young friend and former pupil, Dr. Mott, while among you. He is now with us, and has every prospect of establishing himself in a respectable course of business in this city.

Wishing thee success and perseverance in thy beneficent exertions, I remain,

With every consideration of respect,

Thy Friend,

VALENTINE SEAMAN.

LETTER CI.

Dr. CUMING to Dr. LETTSOM.

Dorchester, Oct. 14, 1782.

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On one of the first days of August, 1734, an offer was made to Dr. Russell, for a pecuniary

gratification, of the body of a young woman, a stranger, just then dead by a fever of ten days standing. This he immediately communicated to me; and we to four more of our fellow students; viz. George Cleghorn; Archibald Taylor, brother to a physician of that name at Edinburgh, an ingenious young man, who died a few years after in the East Indies; Alexander Hamilton, son to the Professor of Divinity in that University, who took his degree there, publishing on that occasion a Thesis *De Morbis Ossium*; and James Kennedy, a young gentleman who, after having finished his studies at Edinburgh, Paris, and Leyden, took his degree in physic, but being requested soon after to accompany a young gentleman of fortune on his travels, after a three years tour on the continent, found himself, on his return, but little disposed for the practice of physic, and bought a commission in the army, in which he continued till he became the senior captain of dragoons in the service: he is still alive in Scotland. Doctor Hamilton settled at Anapolis, in North Carolina, where he died many years ago. How it happened that Dr. Fothergill was not invited to be one of this Society I cannot now recollect.

As we had no proper place in which to lodge and dissect the body, I waited on the Professor of Anatomy, and requested the use of the anatomical theatre, which he most willingly and cheerfully granted me.

After having finished our dissection, in which

we employed the greatest part of that month, we agreed to spend a social evening together at a tavern. After supper, Archibald Taylor proposed, that we six, who had been long familiarly acquainted, and entertained a reciprocal regard for each other, should meet once a fortnight, early in the evening, at our respective lodgings; and that a Dissertation in English or Latin, on some medical subject, at the choice of the Society, should be composed and read at each of those meetings, to which such objections as occurred to the rest of the company should be made, which the author was to obviate in the best manner he could. This scheme was immediately assented to and adopted by all present, and with one voice I was appointed to prepare a Dissertation for their first meeting, on the signs, causes, and methods of cure of the *Rabies Canina*, which I accordingly did, and read on the 20th December following. Russell, I remember, followed me in one *De Gonorrhœa Virulenta;* then came Cleghorn, *De Epilepsia;* Kennedy, *De Fluxu Mensium*, &c.

This association continued during that winter and ensuing spring; but in the summer of 1735 the members of this little society were dispersed, and Cleghorn, I believe, alone remained, to continue, with his respected Fothergill, and some others, this Association, during the subsequent winter. This was the humble and fortuitious commencement of a Society,* that has since become

* The Royal Medical Society of Edinburgh. Ed.

highly respectable by its obvious utility, and the names of many learned and eminent physicians which it records on its list of members, and is now incorporated by royal charter.

W. CUMING.

LETTER CII.

Dr. LETTSOM to Dr. CUMING.

Grove Hill, March 24, 1783.

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May I inquire, whether thou hast often used the Vitriolum Album internally and freely? If we consider bark as a stimulant tonic, white vitriol appears to act as a sedative tonic. In that species of hypochondriasis which borders upon vesania, with tremors and agitation of the nervous system, I have given four grains of this remedy, with immediate benefit. A few months ago I had a patient, one of our first bankers, who was so distressed and agitated in the nervous system, as to start out of his broken sleeps with the greatest horrors, with a sense of instant suffocation. He would walk about the room most part of the night with unaccountable apprehensions. I gave him warm opiates, camphor, bark, and volatiles, but in vain; I then tried Vitriolum Album, and in a week afterwards I had no further occasion to attend.

About ten days ago, I was desired to visit a lady, who had been three months under the care of a judicious apothecary, but gradually grew worse. The friends, who applied to me, thought her mad, and were thinking of a private retirement. She had lost her memory and intellect; when I saw her she laboured under hysteria; she could not sit still, was moving about like a person actuated by Chorea Sancti Viti, and busy as she was, she knew not what she was doing. I did not see the apothecary, although he lived near me, but proposed to do it before the next day, happening, however, to see the patient again without him, I do not know what had been prescribed. Like magic, one grain of white vitriol thrice a day, instantly composed her; and though I repeated the medicine for a week, she never had the least complaint after the first exhibition of it. In those fixed pains about the gums, fauces, neck, &c. which are frequently obstinate, whether we treat them as intermittent or rheumatism; in such cases, after a pound of both common and red bark have been tried, and large doses of anodynes, guiaicum, &c. administered, I have found remarkable relief from the Vitriolum Album. It was this medicine, I fancy, that Lefevre used in the gout, and by which he acquired such a sudden fortune.

A medical gentleman, who practises about 40 miles from London, came here to consult me for a vexatious periodical head-ach, accompanied with

vertigo, which endangered his falling from his horse. For two years he had laboured under this painful state, when he consulted me, about six months ago. I ordered two grains of vitriol thrice a day. I did not hear from him till about a fortnight ago; he came to me at Grove-hill, to thank me for his perfect restoration.

I could relate many other not dissimilar cases to the foregoing, but as they cannot give thee instruction or amusement, I omit them.

J. C. L.

LETTER CIII.

From the same.

London, Dec. 1, 1784.

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I do not know whether I mentioned a case of spontaneous hydrophobia, of a young lady at the West end of the town. It continued about a week, in which not one drop of fluid was swallowed, except, indeed, during the convulsions in the attempt to swallow. I tried the warm bath, which did not afford any relief. Opiates externally and internally augmented the symptoms, so did musk, electricity, and all fœtid medicines. I last ordered ice internally (in the mouth), and cold applications to the throat, which soon succeeded.

J. C. L.

LETTER CIV.

From the same.

London, Sept. 15, 1785.

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Either our vices, or humanity itself, has accumulated a sufficient number of maladies upon flesh and blood. Within a few years a new one has appeared. About nine of these cases have occurred in as many years. Two were fatal. It arises from the transplanting of fresh or live human teeth. The person who receives them, for a month or two appears well, the teeth become as firm as can be. Then comes on gradually an ulceration of the maxilla, to which succeeds a general eruption of the skin, like unto that termed syphilitic. In about twenty days from the commencement of the ulceration of the maxilla, the throat also ulcerates, and nodes appear on the legs. All these symptoms look like syphilis, but the disease is cured by bark without mercury, and the patients from whom the teeth have been taken, have been, I believe, virgins, or, at least, perfectly healthy.

The second volume of the Memoirs of the Medical Society of London, will go to press this autumn, with a memoir on this subject. In the third volume of the Transactions of the Royal

College of Physicians, now nearly out of the press, Dr. Watson has a paper on this disease. He saw Miss Morris before she died, but I do not think he knew much of the disease, or the remedies that have been tried with success in similar instances. The other fatal case was, I think, the daughter of Sir Thomas Frankland.

My patient is attended by Mr. Spence the dentist, three surgeons, and myself. Mr. S. transplants no teeth, without an opinion of a surgeon respecting the health of the person from whom they are transplanted. Mr. John Hunter had examined the present subject. Poor Hunter is going from this busy stage: he can scarcely go up stairs, so much is he affected with dyspnœa on the least motion. He declares he was the other day dead for four minutes, not having pulsation in the heart or arteries. He does not look ill; he speaks freely and easily; he thinks it the gout. I suspect some aneurism, or mechanical pressure on some large nerve connected with the diaphragm. He is just gone to Bath.

J. C. L.

LETTER CV.

From J. B. to Dr. LETTSOM.

Sir, *Curaçoa, April 2*, 1783.

The following copies of letters I received inclosed two days since from Don Ricardo Mead, a gentleman

of considerable consequence, in the employment of Government, at the city of Carraques. What induced me to write to him on the subject was, that a Spaniard in this island, named Don Joseph Febio, having contracted a pox of a most dangerous kind, and having no person of the faculty of any kind of knowledge in this island to apply to, commenced the cure by lizards, and confined himself; and in the course of three weeks he was as well as ever. He had large sores in his legs, the soles of his feet, and palms of his hands, which are all removed. This man was in the progress of this business when Monsieur Laroche, surgeon general of Monsieur Rochambeau's army, arrived here in the La Couronne French man of war, from America; he seemed to fear the experiment so much, that he would not attempt to prove it, and told me he dreaded the consequence to Don Joseph, who was not cured before Monsieur Laroche went away; but he is now perfectly well, and has been so for some time past.

Accidents to myself and fortune some time ago obliged me to leave England; but I so much love that country, that in all places and situations I shall never let any opportunity pass which I think may be improved to her advantage; besides, if in this intelligence you, Sir, find any thing that may prove of use to mankind in general, I know enough of your character to think myself right in a confidence that it would contribute to your hap-

piness to be the instrument of administering relief to mankind.

I am, Sir, with all perfect esteem,

Your most obedient humble servant,

B.

A Translation of several letters, on the subject of a radical remedy for the venereal and all kinds of scorbutic disorders.

At Guatimala has been found a most admirable remedy, with which God has been pleased to alleviate many afflicted with otherwise incurable disorders, such as cancers, lagoes, poxes, and all sorts of wounds and ulcers: viz.

Take a live lizard; cut off the head, legs, and tail quickly; skin it and take its bowels out; cut immediately the small carces in small pieces, the size of a pill; they must all be taken as real pills in the morning fasting; you must be confined to your bed and careful, for in a few hours it produces the effects of sweating and spitting; some it salivates, others it makes them urine to excess; which method is to be continued. The most inveterate infirmity, in eight days time, will find a notable alteration for the better, and in a few days more they get cured, as if nothing had been suffered. It is requisite to have a good diet, but not a luxurious one. The lizards are to be got alive, and those which are brown, with some reddish and

yellow spots on the belly, having the upper part of the skin scaly.

At Mexico there have been wonders performed, that can only be believed by being witnessed. Don Francisco Ramirez, administrator of the king's rents, took the mercurial course in the Love of God Hospital of the said city; got blind of it without hopes of being cured. He had recourse to this practice, and by taking eight lizards found himself well, and is now following his employ with as clear a sight as before. A lace-maker's daughter, eleven years old, seven of which she had been paralytic, in bed, without a capability of moving; and having, at the said time, the paroticus,—had this remedy applied to her. By the time she had taken the sixth lizard she got up, and without any help went to the head of the stairs to receive the doctor that assisted her. At St. Lazaro's Hospital, in the same city, there is not remaining a single leper or lazar, but all have been cured radically. Amongst these was a woman that had been confined to her bed three years, without any motion in her arms, and when she had taken the fourth lizard she could move her limbs with as much freedom as if she had never had such disorder. At Vera Cruz this cure has begun with equal felicity; the viceroy has ordered one of his professors to write a narrative and method, to get printed, and be sent to all parts, for the public good.

Copy of a Letter from Don Joseph Gurbindo, King's Surgeon at Puerto Cabello, to Don Francisco Antonio Dr. Arrietto.

Puerto Cabello, February 10, 1783.

My esteemed Friend,

The receipt of the lizards that you sent me, could not come in a better time, as in the season I had a case in hand of great danger; I made it the touch-stone of the remedy, for if it should serve to the end of the cure there was no occasion to furnish any other proofs of recommendation to use it in its proper cases in future. A mulatto woman, about 30 years of age, slave to one Jeourqouin, who had been lieutenant at Cormama, was *à planta pedis usque ad verticem capitis*, full of foul venereal ulcers; but the most considerable occupied the face, which having eat entirely her nose, eyelids, and eyebrows, discovered through both her jaws, and perforated to the interior of her throat, presenting a most horrible spectacle; she had another in her forehead, that run through a large vein, which made her bleed at times in such a quantity, as almost to occasion fainting; but it used to staunch of its own accord, by the benefit of a small crust that nature used to form. When this fell, the hemorrhage was repeated to such a degree, that it conducted her to a state almost *marasmodica*. To all this there was an association of lower pains, which augmented by

night, with such strong contraction in the muscles of both her arms, that left them without motion, and almost united her hands to her shoulders. In this deplorable state Don Juan Baptista, Dr. Arrillaga, brought her to his house, about the beginning of last May, 1782, that I might see whether she admitted of cure. Sensible that mercury only could have power over this case, I began nourishing and preparing her for a long time to pass her through a course of mercury, in which she suffered 26 frictions or unctions, of two drachms each, but with no success, as she remained in the same state, the ulcers making daily greater progress, with some bones denuded and carious, without the mercury's making any sensible progress, either by ptyalism, urine, or sweat; she therefore remained abandoned to Divine Providence, with respect to remedies. As for the rest, Don Juan Baptista maintained her in a corner of his house, giving her necessaries for her existence, till the latter end of November. I then put in practice the remedy of the lizards, without detaining myself with the prolixity of choosing them according to the receipt; but took the first that presented without distinction, founded on the authors that advise them for the leprosy, like the vipers and snakes, the use of which is very ancient in medicine, but then it was broth or flesh boiled given to eat; and as in the decoction the volatile salts necessarily exhaled, those remedies of course proved unsuccessful. We must confess,

that there is a considerable advantage in giving them raw, just after being killed. This woman began, then, to take them, and the first day a mild salivation commenced, it continued the second and third; the fourth moved her to a sweat, and the salivation augmented. It followed in this manner till the seventh, when her bowels began to open; augmenting the exertion of the urine, but decreasing the other; thus she continued, with an evacuation of five to seven stools daily; the urine, at the same time, came from her in great quantity, of an insupportable stench; always maintaining moderate sweat and salivation, till she had taken 16 lizards. She remained cured, except of the ulcers of her nose and forehead, which only wanted the cicatrization. I would not proceed further with the use of the lizards, the patient being very weak; but I intended to recommence, in case of need, as soon as she should be in a condition for it; but the perfect cicatrization, and total establishment of the motion of her arms, has made me suspend all remedies. She remains radically cured, and at present fat and robust. Many others have been cured of inveterate ulcers, on which mercury had no effect. I will not detain you to specify them circumstantially, because the above case is sufficient. I have observed, this is not an universal remedy: many not experiencing any effect. Opium, quina, and mercury are the three known specifics in medicine; this is merely operative within the classes of scorbutics. I have observed

one thing in the use of this remedy, of some note: viz. that if the patient, at the taking of the fourth lizard, does not experience any sensible effect by any of the secretions: such as salivation, urine, &c. it proves of no advantage, even were we to proceed as far as the five and twentieth lizard. I repeat it: I do not confine myself to the choice of lizards, as mentioned in the letter from your friend at Guatimala, who, from the great wonders he describes, and with such small quantities of lizards taken, must be exceedingly prejudiced in favour of this remedy. I perceive, he is not of the faculty.

I remain, wishing you God's holy protection,

Your true friend,

JOSEPH GURBINDO.

There is also in possession the copy of a letter from Don Thomas Dr. Ariza, the king's surgeon, in the capital of Carracas, to the same Don Francisco Antonio, Dr. Arrietta, the corregidor of Panama, which is exactly the same as the above in substance.

LETTER CVI.

Dr. Bissett to Dr. Lettsom.

Knayton, near Thirsk, Oct.,16, 1785.

Dear Sir,

I am favoured with yours of the 29th ultimo, and I am much obliged to you for your communication of the new disease, resembling syphilis, that in some few instances is produced in consequence of transplanting a living tooth, and which I am inclined to believe, originates from a venereal taint, communicated by the inserted tooth; it being well ascertained that some degree or particles of that infectious matter will lie dormant in some particular part of the body for many years. We learn from this instance that it will lodge in the substance, or in the interstices, of the most simple fibres of the vessels or nerves of a tooth that is sound, without causing any disorder. Indeed, that venom should seem more apt to lodge in the bones, out of the course of the circulation, than in the fleshy parts; as the white juices affused by transcolation into the cells and interstices of the fibres in the latter, will in general be taken up by the valved lymphatics; but those that are so lodged in the bones can only be removed or carried off by being again re-assumed into the mass of blood immediately by transcolation, or by passing through the transcolating pores of all the solids by

exhalation. It is well known that sea salt will penetrate into the bones and marrow, by rubbing it well into the surface of a piece of meat, or into the skin of a ham of pork, which affords an incontestable proof of the existence of such pores. Were the above-named disease the result of some extravasated blood, or other juices, lodging in the socket, or of some uneasiness from the transplanted tooth not fitting exactly, it would be more frequent.

I have long been of opinion, that the humours peculiar to the land scurvy, or of certain cutaneous or critical diseases, do, in like manner, lodge, and often lie dormant for many years, or during life, in particular parts of the body; partly, I suppose, out of the course of the circulation, without discovering their presence till they are brought into action by some great abuse in the use of the non-naturals, or by some supervening disease. In strong persons, who are temperate; nay, even in persons of a delicate frame, with the aid of temperance, they may be suppressed during life by the powers of the body, or till the evening of life, when these powers are greatly weakened by the unavoidable effects of an advanced age. I could adduce many instances of strong healthy parents, who lived to a great old age, whose children, though brought up in the country, and in pretty dry salubrious situations, were subject to scorbutic or scrophulous affections, and mostly died consumptive; and there can be no doubt but the peccant humours, which gave origin to these

diseases, were derived from their parents, in whom they were suppressed by the powers of the body, joined with temperance, exercise, and wholesome air. Had the father of any of these children lived luxuriously, taken little exercise, and drank freely of wine, the latent humour would most probably have appeared in the form of gout. The scorbutic humour, of which there are several species, differs in genus from the scrophulous, of which there are also different species, and they are sometimes combined. I term all those humours scorbutic, which give origin to cutaneous eruptions of various sorts, erysipelatous affections of different sorts, chronic rheumatisms, the gout, sciatica, ill-conditioned ulcers in the legs, of long duration, phagedænic or cancerous ulcers.

Though these humours do often lurk in the habit, without giving rise to any disorder, they are not generally inoffensive in a latent state; for on being determined partly to, and lodging in, one or more of the noble parts, they give rise to various obstinate chronic disorders, mostly of the nervous kind. The chief pathognomonic symptoms of an internal scorbutic humour, that is lodged chiefly in the abdominal viscera, or in the coats of the stomach, are heaviness, debility, and great dejection or lowness of spirits, with a pulse that is rather smaller, weaker, and less equal than that of a healthy person; yet the appetite is often good, and seldom much impaired. When this disorder, which is usually attended with a scanty perspira-

tion, is in a great degree hypochondriacal, and very obstinate, the most efficacious remedy is a voyage to the West Indies, which I have advised with perfect success. These humours are sometimes separated from the sound juices, and thrown, by an eruptive crisis, upon the skin, or the lower extremities, by the natural depurative and effluent powers alone; sometimes with the aid of bathing in the sea; and, in some instances, some degree of an eruptive fever becomes necessary towards the production of such an eruptive crisis. I make no doubt but that the diseases that prove fatal to half of the London children, under three years of age, originate from humours in an influent or internal state; but the country children, having more vigorous bodily powers, these humours are either suppressed, or carried off insensibly by perspiration and urine, or thrown upon the skin, or upon the head, or behind the ears, in the form of an eruption, that is either moist or dry. Hence it is, that in salubrious country villages scarce one child in six dies under three years of age. This, I know, is an unfashionable theory; but as I meet almost daily with instances that seem to confirm it, I shall now, most probably, abide by it: the rather as, in my humble opinion, it contributes not a little towards pointing out the most appropriate methods of cure. It must nevertheless be allowed, that we are subject to a great variety of nervous and other disorders, that have little or no dependance on humour.

Pulmonary consumptions are often imputed wholly to taking cold; but I have reason to believe that the fatal consumption, with tubercles, is very rarely, or never, produced by cold alone; struma in the neck and chaps, I mean the true scrophulous kind, may, with equal propriety, be imputed to catching cold. But it will be admitted, that a violent cold, by debilitating the frame, exciting a febricula, or some degree of a hectic fever, and soliciting a defluxion upon the lungs, may stir up and render active a latent scrophulous taint, which else might have lain dormant, so as to give rise to a true pulmonary consumption with tubercles. The predisposition to this disease depends not on any particular delicate frame of body, but on an hereditary or constitutional scrophulous taint. Most of the consumptive patients who have fallen under my observation, were naturally of a pretty strong frame of body; and the scrophula is most incident to persons of strong stamina, with florid complexions, or to the children of such persons. But as we would wish to be exempt from such humours, it would be deemed very unpolite in a physician to ascribe the above-named cruel pulmonary disease to its true cause.

Having been honoured with a copy of the first volume of Medical Communications by the Society, I read with due attention the late assiduous and accurate Dr. Stark's observations on the causes, symptoms, and cure of pulmonary consumptions, with which the public has been favoured by the

acute and judicious Dr. Carmichael Smyth, and which contain some new and very curious and useful discoveries. I have almost been induced, from Dr. Stark's accurate account of tubercles, to give up my opinion relative to the hereditary scrophulous taint, which I have for many years past regarded as the chief predisposing cause to fatal consumptions; but I cannot yet totally relinquish that opinion, for the following reasons:—1. The diseased gland in a struma in the neck or external fauces, that is truly scrophulous, is firm, white, and insensible, without vessels of any sort, and therefore is not susceptible of inflammation; but after an inflammation is formed in the surrounding cellular membrane, or in the exterior portion of it, that tends to suppuration, the strumous gland becomes softer; and after a suppuration is formed, it is sometimes converted, partly or wholly, into matter; but on making an incision into the strumous tumor, or a large opening, by the application of the *caust. commun. fort.* the gland, which is contained in a cystor capsule, may often be extracted whole; wherefore we ought not to conclude, that the tubercles, in a pulmonary consumption, do not originate from a strumous affection of the lymphatic glands, because they have no vessels that can be discovered, even by a microscope. 2. Young persons, who become affected with struma in the neck or chaps, do for the most part, at the long run, die consumptive. True it is, that the formation of struma there affords the

best crisis of a scrophulous humour, provided there is a successive suppuration of them, so as to continue the discharge during two or three or more successive years. When they are cut out, as the wound soon heals, two or three fresh tumours commonly succeed the one that was cut out. The best method of treating the tumour is to open it quite to the diseased gland, by the application of the *caust. commun. fortius*, and to keep it open by touching occasionally with the caustic, till the gland drops out or is extracted. After being so cured, issues should be opened in the arms. In my book of Medical Observations, I advise converting the struma, or more properly the capsulæ, of the strumous glands, into issues. Those strumæ that will admit of being dispersed are of a different sort, and not truly scrophulous. In these the gland is vascular, or partly sound; some of them will continue for several years without affecting the party's health. These last may be cut out without any bad consequence, the operator being careful to pass a ligature round the peduncle before cutting it, as it may contain an artery that cannot, without great difficulty, be taken up after the gland is cut out. 3. Consumptions are most incident to particular families, subject to an hereditary scrophulous taint. 4. True it is, that a pulmonary consumption is not an unfrequent occurrence; but if it originated wholly from a vehement cough, occasioned by taking cold, it would assuredly be ten times more frequent; and

it was observable, that the Influenza, which commenced in May 1782, did not, in a single instance, so far as I know, give rise to a pulmonary consumption, though some few had a vehement cough of long duration, joined with a slow fever. The famous Dr, Willis, who was very sensible that tubercles could not originate from a cough excited by a temporary diminution of perspiration, from an exposure to cold, supposes they may arise from some particular bad conformation or disposition of the lungs in certain persons and families. But it may be inferred from what is said, that it is more reasonable to believe they originate from an hereditary scrophulous taint, an opinion which, though not generally adopted, is far from being new. I had almost forgot to observe, that as the tubercles observed by Dr. Stark, had all a thin covering or capsule, this circumstance should seem to amount to a proof of their being diseased, or strumous lymphatic glands.

Dr. Stark very justly observes, that bleeding, blisters, and other local discharges, are most serviceable in phthisical disorders; and he says he had hardly ever observed any good effect from internal medicines in diseases of the chest; which may be very true with regard to the acute pulmonary consumption from tubercles, except so far as sedatives or opiates may be of service, by checking a diarrhœa, and palliating the most urgent symptoms. He is not singular in recommending vinegar of squills; but on what principle

it is advised in pulmonary consumptions I know not. No medicine, or medical resource, will abate, in any material degree, the short and difficult breathing peculiar to that disease, as it results chiefly from a great proportion of the bronchia and vesicles being partly rendered impervious to the external air, and partly compressed by tubercles, and to the lungs, being confined by adhesions: besides, the disease is always more or less inflammatory, and the blood more or less sizy, generally with a quick pulse, and great irritability of the villous coat of the alimentary canal; and squill, either recent, or dried and reduced to powder, is highly acrimonious, indeed, more so than cantharides, insomuch that I am inclined to believe it can seldom be advised with propriety, except in dropsies and some cases of a cold pituitous asthma; and, as it is often very offensive to the stomach, I have been induced for some years past to substitute garlic for it; and it cannot, like strong acids, be corrected by dilution.

I shall farther observe here, in general, that the two chief pathognomonic symptoms of an acute or fatal pulmonary consumption, with tubercles, are not distinguished with sufficient accuracy from other symptoms of less note by medical authors. These are, a frequent and somewhat laborious respiration, or a shortness of breath, as the vulgar term it, and a pulse rather small, and beating 120 strokes, or upwards, in a minute. I have not, to the best of my recollection, seen above three cases

of the fatal consumption in persons under 30 years of age, in which the pulse did not exceed 115 strokes in a minute; at least, in the evening, after the commencement of the nocturnal exacerbation; and it beats, in most cases, 130 strokes, or upwards, in a minute: it must nevertheless be acknowledged, that we sometimes meet with a case that has a prosperous issue, in which the pulse beats above 120 strokes in a minute. Though persons under the age of puberty may have true struma, yet they seldom become consumptive till after that age; and the acute pulmonary consumption is most incident to persons between 14 and 21, and far more so to young women than to young men; and the younger the patient is the quicker is his pulse, and the less sizy his blood, in general; and he is proportionably less able to bear repeated bleeding, and *vice versa*. Though many persons under that disease may be relieved a little by repeated small bleedings, the blood being sizy, yet that evacuation makes no sensible change for the better in the shortness of breath, or the quick pulse; even though the patient should be able to bear repeated bleeding, till the siziness of the blood disappears.

In general, the most efficacious remedy in this fatal disease, is a large issue betwixt the shoulders, that will hold five or six small peas, or two large issues there; but after the subcutaneous fat is exhausted, they will hardly be any longer admissible in that part, as the peas will give great pain by

irritating the aponeurosis of the muscles; they will then give rather less pain, on being placed in one row in a long issue, opened betwixt two ribs, on each side. Peas made with the root of Florentine orris are the best; and when the patient is very thin, they may be made smaller than common white peas.

Though we cannot, in this disease, expect that the patient will reap any great or permanent advantage from internal medicines; yet as we can very seldom say, with absolute certainty, that any acute disease shall prove fatal, we are to persevere in advising such medicines as are most appropriated to each particular case, and to endeavour to keep up the patient's spirits. The following electuary is pleasant, and suitable to the disease, and has always agreed well with my patients; R. *Conserv. Ros. Rubr.* ℥iij *Ol. Amygd. Dulc. Pulv. e Tragacanth. Comp. aa* ℥ss. *Tinct. Thebaic. gutt.* xx. *Syr. Pectoral. e Succo Aurant. aa* ℥iss. *Misce: fiat linctus de quo capiat cochleare minimum subinde, superbibendo Aq. Bristolensis haustulum.* A tea-spoon-full of the tincture of columbo, taken in a small draught of Bristol water, two or three times a day, has often a good effect. As extract of hemlock has proved serviceable in some cases of external struma, and is agreeable to the stomach; I often advise five or six grains of it to be taken every night and morning. If the profuse sweating does not commence till five or six in the morning, the patient should put on a dry and well-aired shirt,

after sweating a little, and get up; and he may lie down again, after taking a draught of ass's milk, or butter milk, newly churned in a bottle; and as the nocturnal sweating generally ceases or abates when a diarrhœa comes on, a small dose of rhubarb, with two or three grains of aromatic species, taken every second or third morning, to the amount of ten or twelve grains only, will be more proper than tincture of the bark, acidulated with elixir or spirit of vitriol, which is usually given in such cases. Bristol water is most proper for the patient's common drink. China oranges, and other ripe fruit, eaten in moderation, are often serviceable; a light nutritive vegetable diet being strictly adhered to. A removal to Portugal or the Canaries, in winter, may be of service during the first stage; but after the disease is farther advanced it will be aggravated by a warm air; for, in the first stage, it is in a great measure inflammatory, but in the second, it is partly inflammatory and partly putrid, and in the third stage it is chiefly putrid. It need hardly be mentioned, that in the last stage, when a diarrhœa accedes, decoctions of calcined harts-horn, and tormentil root, impregnated with thebaic tincture, will become absolutely necessary, with the lightest and most bracing demulcent foods. In some cases, that will admit of bleeding, in which the cough is vehement, and rather dry, without any remarkable shortness of breath, or a very quick pulse, it is proper to draw off a little

blood at proper intervals, with a view of preventing the bursting of a blood-vessel in the lungs*.

I have seen several cases of an imposthume, or large vomica, in the lungs, mostly in men above 30 years of age, in which the breathing, after the bursting of the vomica, was either not remarkably frequent and laborious, or very little affected, at least in the morning after a copious expectoration. The pulse did not, in any of these, exceed a hundred strokes in a minute; and, in some cases, was not many strokes above seventy, which is the natural standard. If the patient was much reduced, after the bursting of one or two large imposthumes, the pulse was small and weak, and bleeding was improper; but patients under this disorder, in general, can bear to lose some blood; and in some cases of an open ulcer, with a copious purulent expectoration, the patient being rather of a florid complexion, with a large firm pulse, and a sizy state of the blood, the cure will depend chiefly on repeated small bleedings. Two or three patients under this disease, whom I have seen, recovered

* In some few instances the husband contracts a pulmonary consumption from his wife, the latter being under that disease, and dying of it; and the wife in like manner from the husband; but it is not otherwise infectious in this kingdom. Yet one sister may possibly catch it from another sister under the disease, with whom she lies, both being nearly alike pre-disposed to the same disease; in this case the effluvia from the sister first affected, operates only as an exciting cause.

with very little medical aid, exclusive of a proper diet, after the bursting of one or two large imposthumes, the pulse not exceeding 90 strokes in a minute, and the blood being not very sizy: and in some cases of this sort, balsams are admissible, and tar is perhaps the best. In two or three cases the following electuary had apparently a very good effect: R. *Petrolei Barbadensis (cum vitello ovi solut.)* ℥ss. *Conserv. Ros. Rubr.* ℥ij *Syr. Balsam. e Succo Aurant. aa* ℥ss. *Misce: fiat linctus de quo capiat cochleare minimum unum vel alterum ter in die horis medius, superbibendo aq. font. pur. haustulum.* Such patients do not lose their flesh quickly, as in the true pulmonary consumption, with manifest shortness of breath, and a rapid small pulse; and they probably are, in a great measure, exempt from tubercles, except one, two, or three large ones, which form into large imposthumes. Five cases of this sort, all in men, that required different treatments, and which terminated prosperously, are recited in a manuscript of medical observations and essays, which I deposited, above a year ago, in the library of the Leeds infirmary. Scarce one in five dies of this pulmonary disease, in dry healthful situations in the country.

As four or five cases of an imposthume in the left lobe of the liver, which burst into the stomach, and had a prosperous issue, have fallen under my observation, I am surprised this salutary termination of so great a disease is not mentioned by any

medical author I know. Two cases of it are recited in the above-mentioned manuscript: one of which I will just mention in as few words as possible, as I must have already tired your patience, and have something farther to say, relative to the tape-worm, agreeably to your desire.

About ten years ago, the second son of the late John Appleton, a farmer near Skelton, aged about twelve years, became affected, soon after recovering from the small-pox by inoculation, with a sense of uneasiness in the epigastrium, which, as it did not amount to an acute pain, was taken no notice of till a manifest intumescence, not very prominent, appeared in that region. My advice being then desired, I pronounced it, on due examination, to be an imposthume in the left lobe of the liver; for, as the patient had a tolerable appetite, and a good digestion, there was a moral certainty that the stomach was exempt from any disease, exclusive of an adhesion of its upper portion with the lower portion of the left lobe of the liver, which must then have taken place, and of its being compressed a little by the imposthumated lobe. I recommended a milk diet, and told his father I made no doubt of its bursting, in process of time, into the stomach, which would afford the certain means of effecting a complete cure. His father, in some short time after, boarded him in Stokesley, where he was put to school: he happened, how soon after I cannot say, to quarrel with one of his school companions, and, in fighting, his antagonist gave

him a blow on the pit of his stomach, which burst the imposthume, and a very large quantity of purulent matter was instantly thrown up, and for several days some of it appeared in his stools. The boy's health was not much affected; he continued to have a tolerable appetite and a good digestion; but it was remarkable, that for three months after, he voided an immense quantity of long round worms, which almost induced me to believe they were bred in the bag of the imposthume; the rather, as all the usual vermifuge purges, and even bearsfoot, had failed to exterminate them; but having, at length, advised a course of Harrowgate water, that vermin quite disappeared. This is one of nature's great and admirable medical resources, by means of which the matter that had formed in the left lobe of the liver had at all times a free and ready egress; digestion was very little disturbed, no hectic or purulent fever acceded, nor any accident, exclusive of the above-named worms, to retard or impede the cure; but I regard the worms as an extraordinary occurrence that had no connexion with the original disease.

A young man, a sailor, living at Seaton near Hartlepool, who had long been afflicted with the tape-worm, has taken the powder of male fern, with a dose or two of gamboge, at three different periods. A piece of the worm, about five or six yards in length, was expelled by each course, which always improved his health, and the cucurbitines, or detached joints, disappeared; but each

flattering truce terminated in seven or eight weeks, at the end of which period the detached joints always began to be voided as usual, to the patient's great disappointment. I sent him a quantity of the powder, with some gamboge, made into pills, I think, in November last; but as I have not heard from him since, I apprehend he was lost in the great storm in January last, which proved so fatal and ruinous on this coast.

The wife of William Thompson, a farmer, living in Skelton in Cleveland, has been affected with the tænia above twenty years. About sixteen years ago, on taking two doses of gamboge, after premising some mercurials, she voided a worm that measured twenty-three feet, and four or five yards of another, which procured her a suspension of eight or nine weeks, no detached joints having been voided within that time. As the gamboge operated with some violence, and she was always either pregnant or giving suck, I could not prevail with her to repeat it. In the spring of 1781 I advised her to make trial of the powder of the root of male fern, which I assured her would occasion no disorder. Half an ounce of the powder was divided into eight doses, of which she took one in warm water, sweetened with honey, every night and morning: on the fifth night she took a drachm of the powder, and another drachm early next morning, which proved purgative, and expelled four or five yards of a tape-worm, with a great number of detached joints; and after

omitting one day, she took a dose of gamboge, which operated sharply, but did not expel a single detached worm. Immediately after this course an inflammatory pustular eruption broke out all over her body; the cucurbitines, or small flat worms, disappeared; a pain at her stomach, to which she had long been subject, quite ceased; she was completely healthy, exclusive of the eruption, which soon dried and peeled off, and flattered herself with the hope of being quite freed from that vermin; but, to her great disappointment, after an interval of seven weeks, they began to be voided as usual. She repeated the same course in about a year after, with the like temporary success. I asked the patient if the detached joints that were voided while she was taking the powder were dead or living; she said, that those that were expelled along with the large portion of an entire worm, appeared to her to be dead: hence it may be inferred, that the powder of the male fern is poisonous to that worm, but not in so great a degree as at all times to be equal to the extermination of it. Persons who have a tape-worm generally void at the rate of ten detached joints in twenty-four hours; for these make their egress at any time without a motion, though they are mostly voided with the stools; whence it may be inferred, that the worm vegetates, or is increased in length, five inches every day, supposing each detached living joint to be half an inch long; but they are

generally longer. The learned and judicious Dr. Simmons has favoured the public with a well written pamphlet on the Tænia, of which he exhibits two sorts: the lata and cucurbitina. As I never saw the former, it should seem to be an uncommon occurrence in this kingdom. Young turbots, that are caught about the end of June, have often, I suppose, tape-worms in their intestines, as two out of three that were opened by my maid-servant, in June 1781, had each a tape-worm in its gut; but the maid had unfortunately taken them out before I had an opportunity of examining the head, and of observing if it was fixed in the villous coat. They were both very lively, their motion consisting in extending and contracting their joints alternately; and it is probably this motion that occasions the separation of the long joints at the extremity of the tail. If you should incline to write a paper on any of these topics, you may make such use of my observations, as you may think proper.

I perceive you are fully employed, and you must be very happily so, in the construction of your villa, and the arrangement of your botanical garden. I have, perhaps, been not less busy, but with less advantage, during eight months past, in executing a concise system of fortification, which will be illustrated with above twenty new designs, which are finished, and will make a handsome manuscript, for it will not be published. I am, respectfully, Dear Sir, Yourmost obedient humble servant,

CHARLES BISSETT.

P. S. As a sizy state of the blood is repeatedly mentioned in the foregoing, it may not be improper to give a general idea of my sentiments of it. It is ascertained almost by daily observation, that a whitish or yellowish pretty firm sizy covering on the surface of coagulated blood, after having sprung from a vein, indicates, in particular circumstances, the utility of bleeding; and that in most cases that will admit of a cure, it affords the most infallible guide for directing how far bleeding ought to be pursued. It is an immediate effect of some internal inflammation, particularly when of the phlegmonous kind, with a tendency to the formation of matter, not of the true erysipelatous. By consequence, if the original disease can be resolved by bleeding, the sizy covering will afford a true index for directing that evacuation; and copious bleeding, in such cases, is so much the more necessary, as the sizy disposition of the blood, and the original disease, reciprocally increase each other. But when the original inflammatory disease will not yield to bleeding, that evacuation is not to be regulated by the sizy state of the blood, but by the nature of the disease, and the strength of the patient. Whether sizy blood, with its serum and lymph, be more or less dense or viscous than unsizy blood, should seem immaterial, as we know of no medicine that will condense or attenuate the circulating blood, otherwise than by bracing or relaxing the solids. It amounts, however, to a moral certainty, that the circulating blood is less dense,

or specifically lighter after a pleurisy or pleuro-peripneumony, is completely resolved by drawing off ninety ounces of blood, or upwards, than it was in the first stage of the inflammatory disease, as it then contains a far less proportion of the most viscid and ponderous parts of the mass of blood. True it is, that the true inflammatory rheumatism has no tendency to suppuration, yet its most speedy and effectual cure depends wholly on repeated bleeding. In this disease the blood is always sizy, and often appears thin and of a light red as it springs from a vein, and in that case the sizy covering appears whitish; but in the pleurisy the blood generally appears of a dark red, and to have a greater degree of density as it springs from a vein, and the sizy covering is for the most part yellowish. This rheumatism would seem to have an affinity with that species of erysipelas that is attended with swelling, and for the most part with sizy blood, and also with the gout from whence its moveable peculiarity is derived. Some, caution against a too free use of the lancet in this disease, lest it be converted, by copious bleeding, into a chronic rheumatism; but the fact is precisely the reverse. It is amazing how soon the party recovers after being freed from a sizy blood, and from the disease from whence it originates, by repeated bleeding. I have known a stout husbandman go to light work often in five days after losing about 90 ounces of blood within the space of 15 days, in a pleurisy. A great deal might be said on this

subject, but nothing probably that would be new to you; I shall therefore here conclude this long epistle.

LETTER CVII.

From the same.

Knayton, near Thirsk, Sept. 6, 1788.

Dear Sir,

I was duly favoured with yours of the 5th June, to which was annexed the Thanks of the Medical Society of London, for my communication of an account of an extraordinary tumour; and I hope you will excuse my not acknowledging the receipt of that honourable mark of their regard as soon as it reached me, which I certainly would have done, had I thought it necessary. I am inclined to believe that the inclosed paper of observations relative to the idiopathic dissolution of the blood, will hardly be deemed admissible by the Society, as it may seem too systematic, and is perhaps too much blended with theory, and contains very little that is new. If you should think that, upon these accounts, its admission is doubtful, you will please not to lay it before the Society.

As I had heretofore the best opportunities of being conversant with the diseases most incident to unseasoned Europeans, particularly sailors, in the West Indies, I have lately perused Dr. Moseley's Treatise on Tropical Diseases. The work is sufficiently copious, and exhibits a great share of medical knowledge, but very little, in my humble opinion, that is new and useful. The author asserts that the bilious fever, which is endemic in the climates betwixt the tropics, or at least in the West Indies, with regard to unseasoned Europeans, is, in the highest degree possible, an inflammatory one (page 400 of his book), and most apt to terminate in a general mortification, or sphacelus, agreeably to the hypothesis of Dr. Hillary. Wherefore he terms the last stage of the disease, or the close of it, when fatal, the gangrenous, or mortified, state (pages 410 and 412). He therefore recommends copious bleeding in the first stage of the fever (I suppose before the commencement of bilious vomiting) in a much greater degree than was advised by the last-mentioned author. This procedure, however, which is not warranted by any symptom or indication peculiar to that fever, will correct itself, as it will soon be relinquished, from its pernicious effects, should it ever be put in practice.

It is, I think, evinced in the Introduction to my book on the Scurvy, (pp. 3, 4, and 5,) in the 75th part of the Med. Constitution, &c. and in my

volume of Med. Essays, (from p. 18 to 66,) that the true inflammatory diathesis may be regarded as almost wholly foreign to the climates betwixt the tropics; at least with regard to unseasoned Europeans, or such as have not been one year in the torrid zone; whose fibres are exceedingly relaxed by the great change of climate, particularly at the surface of the body, so as to occasion almost continual immoderate sweating, and the sudamina, or prickly heat.

A sizy blood very seldom appears, and never in the bilious fever in the West Indies: the blood drawn from the arm in this acute disease, being always florid, and most commonly of a soft consistency, in a coagulated state, with a very small proportion of serum, as it always is in the idiopathic dyscrasy, or dissolution of the blood. (See the Med. Essays, pp. 31, 32, and 73.) During a period of five years in the West Indies, I do not remember to have seen but two cases of a disease that had any resemblance to a pleurisy, or pleuroperipneumony; and the inflammatory affection in each was resolved by two or three very moderate bleedings, with two or three small doses of physic, consisting each of a calomel pill of three or four grains, and five or six drachms of Glauber salt. Indeed, the hepatitis is rather a more frequent occurrence in the hot climates than in such as are temperate; but this disease is so mild in the torrid zone as to admit of being resolved by two moderate bleedings, with a small vesicatory oppo-

site the affected part, and two doses of the same purge. It sometimes yields to some drops of *Spt. Sal. Ammon.* taken in warm water; and it may, in general, be completely cured by rubbing in strong mercurial ointment, till the patient's mouth is a little affected, without bleeding or blistering. The chronic dry belly-ach is cured in the speediest manner by the same remedy. (Med. Essays, p. 92.)

The bilious fever is generally supervened by bilious vomiting, soon or late, before the end of the first day, and often at the onset of the disease; and very soon after this dreadful symptom commences, the fever sinks, or becomes less ardent; and the continual oppression at the præcordia, with sickness, incessant jactation, and frequent vomiting, occasion immense prostration of strength, with great dejection or lowness of spirits, and a soft, weak, and often unequal pulse, with which bleeding, in any great degree, is absolutely incompatible; the rather as the disease, after an imperfect salutary crisis, is apt to terminate in an intermittent, or to be succeeded by some quotidian paroxysms, especially after the commencement of the north winds peculiar to the winter months; or if the party, in a convalescent state, breathes an air that is contaminated in any degree by the exhalations from a neighbouring morass. The intermittent, in this case, often terminates in a cachexy and dropsy. After the patient begins to vomit in the first stage of this acute fever, the bilious

vomiting commonly recurs at short intervals, and continues till his strength is irrecoverably exhausted; because the motion of the blood in the ventral and hepatic branches of the vena portæ is accelerated, and the secretion of the bile is proportionably increased by the action of the diaphragm and abdominal muscles in vomiting, and the acrimony of the bile is doubtless considerable, from its containing a great proportion of rancid animal oil; wherefore the above author is in the right to disapprove of emetics in the bilious fever.

But this caution was hardly necessary, as we never gave emetics in such cases at Jamaica, neither in the Naval Hospital, nor on ship-board; exclusive of washing the stomach after the vomiting began, with water-gruel impregnated with cream of tartar, or soluble tartar, or tamarinds, or with Glauber salt and manna; with a view of restraining the vomiting by carrying down the noxious bilious contents of the duodenum and jejunum, with which these guts are always more or less replete in the bilious fever; (see the recital of dissections in the Med. Essays, from page 47 to 65,) and which, joined with a portion of the same acrid excrementitious bilious humour that is thrown into the stomach, in each paroxysm of vomiting, is almost the sole cause of the immense and incessant oppression at the præcordia, with continual sickness and frequent vomiting. On washing the stomach, as above-mentioned, and causing the patient to drink plentifully of that

laxative gruel, after each fit of vomiting, some share of it makes its way, or is forced, into the intestinal canal, so as to prove laxative. After that it becomes necessary to administer the most palatable bracing antiseptic, diaphoretic, and demulcent or sedative anti-emetics, amongst which strong coffee is, perhaps, one of the best. A mild laxative draught is given afterwards at proper intervals. The decoction of the bark lightly acidulated with *Spt. Vitr. ten.* is administered as soon as the stomach will retain it.

The bilious fever is sometimes mild on board of a ship of war, in particular circumstances; and it is observable that the milder it is, the patient can bear so much the better with bleeding, and seems to reap some benefit by one moderate bleeding well timed; if he is strong and healthy before the onset of the fever; and in such a case the patient may probably bear two moderate bleedings, without any observable bad effect, provided he breathes a wholesome air that is not productive of remitting and intermitting fevers. It is not intended here to give a minute detail of the method of cure that was pursued against this fever, under various forms, in the Naval Hospital in Jamaica, during the old war; and I shall only observe further, that no improvement has been made in the method of cure, since the old war, which commenced in 1740, so far as I know; and that the most malignant cases of it will still elude every medical resource yet discovered.

The aforesaid late author's description of the bilious fever appears to me to be a medley, extracted from different authors, and calculated to correspond with his theory and practice. Indeed, what is said towards the foot of the 44th page of the Med. Essays, relative to the theory and practice of a former respectable author, in regard to this disease, may be applied to this author, who, in other respects, is intelligent and judicious; but I cannot join issue with him in supposing that any fever or inflammatory disorder that is excited by certain irregularities, or intemperance, will constitute a seasoning; for by this rule some men and most European women and boys, who escape such disorders, would at no time be seasoned. I had two attacks of the bilious fever, and was not bled in either. The first happened in Port Royal harbour, in May 1741, soon after our arrival from England, and the second at Cumberland Harbour, in Cuba, in the September following. Had the first fever proved a seasoning, I should have escaped the second. A seasoning is constituted only by living one year in the torrid zone: for European new-comers, after being so seasoned, are not susceptible of the true malignant bilious fever, and are far less liable to the scurvy at sea, than such as are unseasoned. (See my Treatise on the Scurvy, pp. 10, 11, 12). The effect produced in the habit by this seasoning, consists, most probably, in rendering the fibres, those at least at the surface of the body, more dry and rigid, or elastic, and the

cutaneous pores, by consequence, smaller; so as to become nearly similar to those of negroes and creoles. Hence it is that seasoned Europeans sweat less profusely than such as are unseasoned, and are seldom much affected with the prickly heat.

A dysentery is not properly a navy disease, I believe in any climate; and I am inclined to believe that it very seldom becomes frequent amongst the company of a ship of war, except when it is excited and promoted by infection. I do not remember to have seen five cases of the dysentery during a period of three years at the King's Naval Hospital in Jamaica; though a diarrhœa is not uncommon on ship-board, in some harbours. That disease very seldom appears in salubrious villages in England. The few cases of a dysentery that have fallen under my observation hitherto, in this country, were speedily cured, after clearing the alimentary canal with a suitable purge or two, by giving three grains of *Vitr. Antimon. Cerat.* combined with about 15 grains of *Pulv. Contr. Comp.* at bed time, on three or four successive nights, as an alterative and diaphoretic, a grain of opium being taken with the first dose of it; and a purge or two after this course, in the event of a costive habit. Yet I do not suppose that this procedure would prove equally successful in a camp dysentery; which is often accompanied by a malignant or dangerous fever. The aforesaid late author makes no mention of glysters as an auxiliary

remedy in that violent disease, which is most apt to affect the rectum and the lower portion, or sigmoid flexure of the colon, from the acrimony of the dejections, and which are within the reach of glysters; which, therefore, if demulcent, sedative, absorbent, and gently corroborant, or antiseptic, would seem to afford great and immediate relief in every stage of the dysentery, particularly when it is aggravated by a continual tenesmus from that cause. I well know they are of singular service in a diarrhœa, especially when that symptom takes place.

I do not remember to have observed any bad effects from weak rum punch, acidulated with lime or lemon juice, in the West Indies. In places under the influence of the exhalations from marshes, it becomes necessary; and the commissioned and petty officers in the navy, are preserved from the scurvy chiefly by means of it; and certain I am that water-drinking, in a great degree, is most apt to promote the scurvy, particularly the anasarcous or œdematous sort, amongst sailors who live chiefly on salted meat. (Page 51 of Dr. Moseley's book.) Fruit may, no doubt, be eaten in excess, so as to prove injurious; but a moderate use of acids must prove serviceable in the West Indies to all those who live chiefly on animal food, whether fresh or salted. There may be some few exceptions to this rule. In the west of Yorkshire the bread of the common people con-

sists wholly of sour oaten cakes, and they are very healthy and strong.

It might have been observed in the foregoing, that the pain in the epigastrium, which most patients who vomit in the bilious fever complain of, when that part is compressed with the finger, never takes place in the ardent stage of the fever, before the commencement of bilious vomiting, and frequent and violent retching; wherefore it is observed in my book of Med. Essays, that it is wholly symptomatic, and an effect of violent and frequent retching (page 25); and the pain and tension in that region, always soon recede after a salutary crisis. (See the third dissection in the last-mentioned book.) I am persuaded that Dr. John Murray, of Norwich, who assisted at these dissections, will bear testimony to the truth of every fact asserted in my narratives of them. On farther recollection, Dr. Murray, I believe, was present only at the first dissection, which, however, is the principal one.

I hope His Majesty will be pleased to honour the Medical Society of London with a Royal Charter, which would certainly add dignity and permanency to that very laudable institution, which, I am persuaded, has been promoted, and supported hitherto, chiefly by your own assiduity and liberality.

I have some fine plants of the Mangel Wurzel from the seed with which you favoured me; and I am informed it is already cultivated in the

gardens of many gentlemen in this country. It is surprising that this remarkable species of beet should have been so little known to Botanists before you introduced it into this kingdom.

Three weeks ago, I transmitted a copy of each of my three medical books to Mr. Ballantine, druggist, in Wood-street, London, in order to have them handsomely bound, and put into your hands; and after glancing into them, or over the particulars referred to in this letter, you will please to honour them with a place in the library of the Medical Society of London, and you will much oblige, Dear Sir,

Your humble servant
and sincere friend,
CHARLES BISSETT.

I am one of the oldest members, now living, of the Edinburgh Royal Medical Society.

LETTER CVIII.

From the same.

Knayton, near Thirsk, March 20, 1789.

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I had not seen Dr. Cullen's First Lines, &c. till October last, when I bought a copy of that work

at York; and in December following, I formed the design of amusing myself at leisure hours with writing a Review of it, and have nearly finished that of the first volume. My intention is not to derogate from the merit of the professor's excellent system, but rather to attempt an amendment and illustration of it, by throwing in a great variety of medical observations that have occurred in the course of my practice. I cannot, however, help dissenting from the Doctor in regard to some essential particulars; and have, I think, fully answered all his arguments against the humoral pathology. After completing the Review of the first and second volumes, I thought of sending them to you, in order to give them a place in the Society's library, provided you will accept of them, and not deem them heterodox without just cause. Perhaps I may not live to complete the Review of the third and fourth volumes. My observations and remarks are written rather small, but legible, upon the margin, and betwixt the paragraphs, in each page.

I am respectfully,
Your sincere friend,
and humble servant,
CHARLES BISSETT.

LETTER CIX.

From the same.

Knayton, near Thirsk, Feb. 12, 1791.

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I had finished my Remarks on the first volume, and about half of the second, of the late Professor Cullen's First Lines, with additional observations, when I found myself under a necessity of discontinuing that work, from an imperfect state of health. About a year ago I was seized with a fixed pain on the left side of the sternum, which induced me to apply a blister, and, after that, to open an issue in the affected part, which carried the pain entirely off. But the issue being very painful, I dried it up, though the discharge was copious, and, soon after, I was seized with a moderate attack of the sciatica in the superior and exterior portion of the left thigh. I was not anxious to carry it off or remove it, as the pain was in general moderate; and when it is so, the local disease is never of any bad consequence, so long as it continues in its most natural seat. I therefore rested satisfied with applying my hand upon the affected portion, when the pain increased at any time in bed, so as to interrupt my repose, which always in a few minutes warmed that part, and solicited a breathing sweat, which gave immediate ease;

the seat of the sciatica being always cold. I can, at any time, carry off, or very much abate a pain in my forehead, from cold, in a few minutes, by the same application. Towards the end of October last, the sciatica quite ceased spontaneously, and was succeeded by a great difficulty of making water, unattended with pain, threatening a total suppression of urine. This complaint, which was sometimes attended with some little uneasiness about the neck of the bladder, is now much abated; but I am still obliged to make water often, and cannot now do so in a lying attitude; wherefore I am forced to get up several times in a night. In my book of Medical Observations, I advise a gentle salivation as the most speedy and effectual remedy, in obstinate or dangerous cases of dysury. I made some trial of mercurial unction, and alkalized quicksilver, made into pills with Venice turpentine; but have hitherto reaped most benefit from suitable laxatives, repeated at short intervals, my disorder being also, in a great measure, bilious, I suppose from a vitiated state of the bile. I have been confined to the house for three months past, but my appetite is not greatly impaired.

I am, with great esteem,

Dear Sir,

Your obedient servant,

CHARLES BISSETT.

LETTER CX.

Dr. WALKER to Dr. LETTSOM.

Leeds, 1 *Mo.* 26, 1791.

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In the last volume of the Medical Communications there is a paper on the use of the salited terra ponderosa, or muriated barytes, in scrophulous affections and cancers. Prior to this publication, I had known two instances in this place, in which this remedy had been successfully employed as to the *local* disease, but seemed clearly to injure and debilitate the general health, and at last the patients died emaciated; though in one instance the cancerous affection of the mamma was entirely healed. I should esteem it a favour, in addition to the many I have received at thy hands, if thou wouldst give me thy own opinion and experience in respect to this medicine. It appears to act imperceptibly on the constitution, to its prejudice, at the same time that it produces favourable appearances on local complaints. Is this generally the case? and can the bad effects be successfully obviated without impairing its efficacy on the tumours or ulcers? What I have found to succeed the best in scrophulous tumours, during the first months of the year, or the inflammatory state, has been a bolus consisting of ℈j or

℥ßs of *Spongia Usta* and honey, taken every night at bed-time, and a diluted solution of the mineral alkali twice a day, in the proportion of ʒß of the *Sal Sodæ*, to ℥iij or iv of water, for a dose. When the disposition to inflammation in the tumour, has subsided, which is generally the case as the warm months of summer come on, the bark becomes an useful addition to the salt, especially if the tumour be *decreasing* in size. This course has frequently succeeded in dispersing glandular tumours in the necks of children, which I have supposed to be scrophulous; but it sometimes fails, and I should think myself obliged to thee if thou wouldst send me thy most successful method of treating this obstinate disease; and also the *phthisis scrophulosa*, or the common consumption. These are diseases which prevail very much in this country, and in which the debilitating plan of cure does by no means succeed. I have almost universally laid aside the use of the lancet in phthisis, unless some considerable pain in the chest should require a very small bleeding; nor do I prohibit the use of animal food, in small quantities at an early hour. Thy extensive experience, and superior abilities, must, before this, have led thee to fix upon some plan of cure, which thou hast found the most beneficial in such cases, and I should esteem myself happy to receive from thee thy usual mode of treatment in scrophula, and in the incipient and also in the advanced stage of phthisis. I am at all times Thy affectionate friend, J. WALKER.

LETTER CXI.

Dr. Lettsom to Dr. Walker.

Dear Doctor, *London, Sept. 3, 1795.*

As I live in carriages, seldom having less than three pair of horses a day, and neglecting my meals, except once a week that I dine with my wife, I have some time to preserve my correspondence, having always, in the carriage, pen, ink, and paper, to amuse myself, if I do not amuse my correspondents.

Thy letter afforded me the pleasure of knowing that I was not obliterated from thy recollection, though I was sorry to learn that thy wife suffers so much in her health. I thank thee for thy kind invitation, but, alas! I am more and more involved in business, and shall never, I think, command a day whilst I have health; otherwise, might I relax, Leeds should tempt me to see thee, and Sheffield, my old master Dr. Sutcliff, who has been twice to see his old apprentice.

I inclose, to the care of Johnson, "Grove Hill," an Horticultural Sketch," with other minor pieces, for thy acceptance. In the Gentleman's Magazine for August, just come out, there is a pretty full account of my Tusculum, without my knowledge,

as well as a piece of poetry by my late friend John Scott, and another by the Rev. Mr. Maurice, author of Indian Antiquities, and other learned works. It would please me, as one of the most elegant pieces of poetry I ever read, if it did not contain too many stories about me. In this Magazine there is a piece of mine, signed Medicus Londinensis, a signature I sometimes assume, and sometimes that of "One of the Faculty."

I consider the care of youth as one of the most interesting trusts in human life, and I should approve Dr. B.'s resolution, were he in any other profession than medicine; but this is the highest and most divine profession, that can engage human intellect. I have attended eighty-two thousand patients, and what can equal the dignity of having so many lives intrusted to your decision!—What more divine, than to soothe the afflicted, and soften agony! What more sublime than to restore to life the victim of disease! I envy not the prince on the throne, nor the sultan in his haram, whilst I enjoy the confidence of the sick chamber, and the blessings of the restored. I love my profession, perhaps too much. It loves me, and I have no objection to die in the chamber of malady, provided I can mitigate it in a fellow creature,—and so every other physician would, I doubt not, reason.

Public news is equally within our acquisition. As to domestic ones, I am happy in the marriages of two children. Dr. Elliot, who has made me a

grandfather, is as worthy a man as lives. He, with my daughter, are now on a visit to my niece, Lady Mackworth, at Knoll Castle. My son, Dr. John, has married the woman of my choice: they live in my house in Sambrook Court, and I board with them. The pamphlet on Grasses, by Curtis, is out of print, and I fear I cannot get one, though I sent to him to-day for one. With respect to Materia Medica, or botanical books with Icons, they are very expensive. I do not think a decently good collection could be purchased under 200 guineas. Curtis's Flora Londinensis is a valuable work, but scarcely two numbers appear a year, and it alone, when complete, must cost at least 50 pounds. Mr. Sowerby, who used to draw for him, publishes an 8vo cheap work of his own, with coloured prints, entitled English Botany, of which about three volumes are come out.

Zorn has published at Nuremberg, Icones Plantarum Medicin. in centuries, 8vo.; of which six are published. Nodder and Martyn are publishing Flora Rustica, 8vo. including the grasses; about three volumes have appeared. Some years ago Garrault published Les Figures des Plantes et Animaux, 8vo., including all Geoffroy's Materia Medica. This is in five volumes, containing above 1000 figures. Plenck is in folio, and three volumes have appeared, but this costs about five guineas a volume. I think, however, Sowerby's English Botany, and Nodder's Flora Rustica,

would answer, in great measure, thy wishes. I sincerely wish thy wife better health, and in any thing that I can serve thee respecting thy daughter, may be commanded,

Being ever sincerely, thy friend,

J. C. LETTSOM.

LETTER CXII.

Dr. WALKER to Dr. LETTSOM.

Dear Doctor, *Leeds*, 10 *Mo.* 16, 1801.

With respect to our patient Wm. Manser, I am glad thy opinion respecting diet, &c. so nearly corresponds with my own, and I wholly approve of the drain thou hast pointed out, as a probable means of relieving the head; but I meet with cases in which it has failed my expectation, and unless there be reason to believe that the patient will permit it to remain for a *great length* of time, I seldom direct it—having repeatedly succeeded in most curable cases by preparations of copper, zinc, &c. and *often* by *Valerian* combined with the *Ferrum Ammoniacale*. I never gave the *Argentum Nitratum*, though so much talked of at present. Thirty years of extensive practice have taught me to rely, at least for a time, more on my own observation and

success, than on new remedies; yet I think all metallic preparations, properly conducted, may probably act on the system as tonics, and thereby relieve the morbid mobility which accompanies epilepsy, after the plethoric state has been removed. I think the *solution of arsenic* a good remedy in cautious hands. But to speak freely, I have found much attention necessary in the treatment of epileptic complaints, and that the practice should be so conducted as to suit particular states of it. For instance, if at any particular time, any unusual turgescence appear in the vessels of the head, that and that only is the proper time to apply *leeches*, or the scarificator, to the temples; to employ laxatives, and low diet. But if the constitution at all other times exhibit marks of delicacy, and general morbid debility, tonics, exercise, and one moderate meal of animal food in the day, seem to be indicated. By observing these signs, I have cured some epilepsies, that have resisted the common remedies. If the disease return periodically, the bark succeeds; if the ancles swell, and the habit appear hydropic, even in a slight degree, there may be reason to suspect effusion into the ventricles, then the digitalis sometimes removes the disease. These cases sometimes prove suddenly fatal, though but rarely. The late Hugo Meynell, Esq. of Quorn in Leicestershire, was seized, for the first time, when on a visit to Lady Irwin's, at Temple-Newsam, to whom I was sent for, and while he remained under my care here, he

had no return of it. On going to London some time after, he was seized a second time; and as the complaint was accompanied with the Aura Epileptica in one of his hands and arms, the nerve along which the aura was supposed to be propagated, was divided by a surgeon, with great hopes of success; but on the patient's return home, he was attacked, while hunting, with an epileptic fit, fell from his horse, and did not long survive the accident.

If, at any time, thou shouldst find leisure to communicate any hints respecting a successful mode of curing some of the more untoward diseases, I should take such communication as a singular favour. How useful it is to know that camphor cures the *eclampsia*, or the *convulsion* that attends some women in pregnancy and labour; and that opium aggravates the disease, and renders it fatal! Such hints, with the doses and formulæ employed, are of the greatest consequence to be known by practitioners, and the early conveyance, by letter, of such intelligence, is invaluable to those who may be ignorant of such effects.

A paper is much wanted on the danger of the infection from persons in the advanced stages of phthisis pulmonalis.

I remain,

Thy affectionate friend,

J. WALKER.

LETTER CXIII.

From the same.

Dear Doctor, *Leeds, 4 Mo.* 8, 1812.

I have, for many years, been led to make a material distinction in classing phthisis pulmonalis, and in distinguishing the truly *inflammatory* from the *scrophulous* consumption. When, in florid habits, the disease arises from obvious causes, such as preceding hæmoptysis, pneumonia, or catarrh, the case is, in general, attended with inflammatory diathesis, and requires a treatment suited to the cause. But in scrophulous habits, in whom the disease creeps on insidiously and slowly, without any very violent symptoms of any kind—the debilitating plan of cure, under the idea of inflammatory tubercle, seldom succeeds; and I have, in such cases, found a moderate allowance of bland preparations of animal food once a day, and mild restorative tonics, agree well.

The introduction of the practice of giving *Ol. Terebinthinæ*, in worm cases, originated, I trust, with myself, in the year 1798. A bad case of tænia, in our infirmary, baffled all other medicines, and to this patient I prescribed the *Ol. Tereb.* combined with a bitter, with a dose of *Flores Sul-*

phuris once in four days. I thought it better to give moderate doses often repeated, rather than *full* ones, and accordingly prescribed as follows, and have done so ever since that time.

℞ *Ol. Terebinthinæ*
Tinct. Gentianæ C. aa ʒj Capiat coch. ij vel iij parv (tea spoon) octava quâque horâ in Haustu *Infusionis Folium Tanaceti.*

℞ *Flor. Sulphur.* ʒj sumat primo mane in Haustu *Seri Lactis Com.*

These medicines expelled the worm three yards in length, and have answered in every case, except one, I have had occasion to treat since.

As nothing we are acquainted with, is found more destructive to insects, than oil of turpentine, it was on this ground I first directed it in 1798, and find that by giving small doses frequently the worm gradually detaches itself to avoid the remedy so obnoxious to it, and seeks refuge in the lower part of the alimentary canal, from whence it is easily expelled by the *sulphur*, which, from its nature, passes *unchanged* through the whole tract, and finishes the business by discharging the insect totally lifeless.

I never had occasion to give very large and irritating doses of this oil, as those above-mentioned, or not exceeding two drachms of oil, and two of the bitter tincture, have seldom failed to accomplish my wishes in a variety of instances. This practice

of mine has been much known, by my having communicated it many years ago, to a great number of medical practitioners in this town and neighbourhood.

I remain, sincerely, thy Friend,

J. WALKER.

LETTER CXIV.

Dr. LETTSOM's Reply.

London, April 22, 1812.

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With respect to the digitalis in pulmonary consumptions, I believe it never cured one, and that its indiscriminate use has killed many; I would not, however, totally discard it; the qualities of lessening the impetus of the circulation, and the quickness of the pulse, are not trivial, if well directed; but, alas! what single remedy can avail in this *malevolent* disease, which, in a peculiar manner, preys upon youth and beauty. Foreigners had long noticed the frequency of this disease in London; and rather more than 40 years ago, the faculty of Paris addressed the college here, to learn from it, whether or not this malady resulted from the use of coal fires. Dr. Fothergill told me that it was answered in the negative, as consumptions were as frequent in those parts of England where

peat, turf, or wood, were the usual fuel. Since this period consumptions are spread over the continent, and perhaps the disease is full as frequent in Paris and Vienna, as in London, and lately still more frequent in America, particularly in New York and Philadelphia. My friend Dr. Anthony Fothergill, now in the latter city, has sent me the bills of mortality in these Trans-Atlantic cities, and I find the proportion of deaths, by consumptions, are in both truly alarming. Is this extension of a disease, not usually deemed infectious, to be ascribed to a change of habit; and the revolution in light clothing?

With respect to the strumous phthisis, I implicitly accord with thy discriminate treatment, and mode of diet, to which I add myrrh and steel, in the form recommended by the late Dr. Griffith, and now introduced into our pharmacopœia, under the title of *Mistura Ferri Composita*, and similar in the form of *Pilula Ferri cum Myrrha*. This species of phthisis will bear sea-air, and is often curable. The inflammatory, or hectic, especially where hæmoptysis have been a concomitant, will not admit of sea-air, and is more generally fatal; rendered indeed more so from want of that discrimination which thy letter evinces. I think in this disease the old practice of issues and setons essential remedies, though rarely appealed to.

That part of thy letter respecting the exhibition of the oil of turpentine in worm cases, I communicated to the Medical Society of London, and with

thy permission, may be introduced into our next volume. I am trying it, and wish it may correspond with thy experience, as it is less operose than the dose I have recommended.

I remain,

Thy affectionate friend,

J. C. LETTSOM.

LETTER CXV.

Dr. WALKER to Dr. LETTSOM.

Leeds, 9 Mo. 1, 1813.

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I have, from the first introduction of vaccination, after having observed its symptoms and progress, entertained an opinion respecting its nature different from those who suppose it a *substitute* only for the small-pox; for I think there is reason to believe that, according to my judgment, it is the *variola mitior*, a term which I sincerely wish had been from the first adopted, instead of the *cow-pox*, which has only served to debase it in the eyes of the common people, and prevent its general adoption. There is, I trust, a possibility that this disease, called the *vaccine* by medical men, may be the true *small-pox*, or variola, in a milder form, owing to the large dilution the

small-pox matter has undergone in passing through the mild and bland juices of so large an animal as the cow, into whose system it was at *first* introduced through a fissure in the teat of the cow, from the fingers of some person milking the animal with small-pox matter, in an active state, adhering to them. Now I have, from an early part of my practice, been in the habit of *diluting* the small-pox virus with water, previous to its introduction into the system; and in every instance I have *then* always found the disease very mild, and the fever slight: this led me to the conclusion above hinted at—and as I believe it scarcely reasonable to suppose that one disease can effectually act as a complete substitute for another, I believe the variola and vaccina (so called) to be, at bottom, the same disease, and could wish that the term *Variola mitior* were employed instead of Vaccina. Perhaps it may be objected that, as no infection is produced by the vaccina, it cannot be the same disease as the variola; but this is easily answered by supposing that the small *febricula* raised by the vaccina, may be sufficient to excite the necessary action in the system to which it has been applied; yet, being so mild, it is incapable of conveying infection to another, except by actual insertion into the *circulating fluids.*

I have long ago entertained this notion; if thou think it at all plausible, or that propagating such an idea of this disease would make people less averse to it, please to give me thy opinion freely;

and, if proper, make such inquiries of men of observation, who are *unprejudiced*, as may afford me some information. As a Corresponding Member of the Medical Society of London, I could wish to hear the opinion of some sensible erudite practitioners among their number.

If the idea be *scouted*, it is easily suppressed; if thought *probable*, I will take the subject under further consideration.

Thy faithful Friend,

J. WALKER.

LETTER CXVI.

From the same.

Leeds, 3 Mo. 23, 1814.

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Thou inquirest if thou mayest introduce the remarks I have made on the use of the *Ol. Terebinthinæ* in cases of Tænia to the Medical Society. I certainly can have no objection, though my sentiments were not intended for publication, although I established the use of this remedy, in this place, about 14 or 15 years ago. I had never seen it given internally before that time, though the late Dr. Fothergill had often directed *small* quantities of it in *glysters* against ascarides. The

only hint I ever received was, if I remember right, in some of Doctor Garnet's publications, many years ago, but I do not recollect which of them.

Thine, &c.

J. WALKER.

LETTER CXVII.

Dr. DIXON to Dr. LETTSOM.

Whitehaven, Oct. 11, 1791.

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This country has been many years almost constantly liable to the dangerous prevalency of malignant fevers. The contagion (to which my best medical friend, Dr. Brownrigg, paid particular regard) first introduced in 1757, by the crew of a sloop of war from the Nore, was remarkably fatal. A circuit of at least twenty miles has been since scarcely ever perfectly free from it. The amount of my fever list in 1774 exceeded 300. As no public medical relief could then be procured, I supplied the poor with requisite medicines; and in consequence of their regular attendance at my house, my mother took the contagion and died. I also was infected, and (after a confinement of three months), with the greatest imaginable difficulty, recovered. Since the establishment of our Dis-

pensary, in 1783, upwards of 1520 have been admitted. Every precaution has been employed to interrupt the communication of contagious disease; and so successfully, that I have neither heard of nor visited a continued fever case these last five months. In January 1790 I received a very exquisite gratification. A neighbourhood (Middleton Place, in Corney) of 23 persons suffered this malignant disease; two had previously died: I was then called. The remaining 21 recovered, and the progress of the contagion in the adjacent country was, by the means noted in the scheme of prophylactics, effectually prevented. It was, indeed, this fortunate event, and a similar one at Workington, that have induced me briefly to collect, from various practical authors, and our Dispensary Reports, the best information relative to this important subject. The plan I shall adopt will be that of distributing these intimations (procured at my own expence) wherever such contagion prevails; earnestly soliciting the humane and intelligent to obey the precautions and execute the measures there recommended with the utmost assiduity and attention.

With best wishes for your health and happiness, I remain, Dear Sir,

Your obliged and faithful servant,

JOSHUA DIXON.

LETTER CXVIII.

From the same.

Whitehaven, March 28, 1792.

Dr. Joshua Dixon presents most respectful compliments to Dr. Lettsom, and accepts, with great pleasure, this favourable opportunity of transmitting a *Note*, which he yesterday accidentally met with in a course of lectures (digested and comprized in 6 vols. 4to, by J. D. in 1775) upon the practice of medicine, by Dr. Cullen. It is exactly taken by his youngest son, from the MS copy, and more clearly displays the nature and effects of that contagion, briefly mentioned in his former papers.

The following observations were introduced when treating upon continued fever, and the use of simple stimulants.

NOTE.

"*Brandy, amongst the lower class of people, has been employed with good effect.*"

In the summer of 1773 an epidemic fever raged at Whitehaven, and was distinguished by symptoms of most sedative malignancy. It took place pretty early in the preceding winter, and was then accompanied by more or less of phlogistic diathesis, but never to such a degree as usefully to admit bleeding. Such therefore were only tempo-

rary and contingent circumstances, to which the mere influence of the season, or exposure to cold in particular habits, gave accidental occasion. The disease then proved neither so contagious nor so fatal as afterwards. Its duration, however, was generally from seven to fourteen or twenty days; always shorter where the inflammatory combination appeared most remarkable. As the spring advanced, similar to the Virgilian *Fama*, this Epidemic *vires acquirit eundo*, was found casting away the marks of inflammation, and assuming a more pure nervous aspect, rarely united with any septic tendency. During the summer its virulency increased potently, rationally imputable to the more than usual intensity of heat and dryness then prevailing. So that as when tracing the disease from its origin, in its progress a loss of one in twenty was perceived; then one in ten and six patients, so now it was found that the deaths and recoveries were nearly equal, and too frequently that the former, in particular situations, exceeded the latter. At this period, and for the most part ever after, a miliary in many, and even petechial eruption in some patients took place, generally about the seventh or eleventh day. In regard to the continuance of this disease, it was observed not to recede or mitigate before the following spring. As to the treatment, antimonials in the incipient, and antispasmodics in the terminating stages, were employed with blisters, the bark being always exhibited when the most trivial remission or prevalence

of pure debility gave the indication. Wine, and its several preparations, were liberally allowed, to a bottle or more in a day. Dr. D. himself, on the night of the crisis, took that quantity made into whey. With a view to its use, and that of spirit in the following case, was this elongated note intruded.

" A young man, aged 19, in the month of July, suffered fever, marked by no peculiar symptoms. The usual sudorific course had been strictly obeyed, and with seeming advantage, till the eleventh day, when delirium, with frequent irregular pulse, urgent thirst, profuse sweat, and petechial eruptions, with pale-coloured clear urine, obtained. Vesicatories, the camphorated and musk juleps, with volatile alkali, were then employed, but with no sensible effect, so that the symptoms indicative of sedative and septic influence became hourly aggravated. On the fourteenth, they were accompanied with universal tremulous, and more partial, occasional convulsive affections; at the same time an incessant singultus prevailed, and distressed him exceedingly. The former remedies were continued, and taken freely, 12 hours, after this accession; but the symptoms remained unalterable. Wine united with brandy was then given him, at first in small quantities, and afterwards increased to very considerable ones, scarce at all diluted, so that betwixt the fourteenth at night, and the sixteenth in the morning, he took iv lbs of the one, and ij lbs of the other, with so certain relief that an omission of a

dose, each half hour, gave occasion to the return of the complaint, and I saw the repetition almost instantly remove it. By this means were the spasms obviated effectually, and an opportunity given for referring the cure to our best tonic, the bark. From the poverty of his circumstances, his mother became his nurse, whose peculiar solicitude for his recovery, whilst it secured her attention, prevented any deception that might have otherwise happened."

Such were the facts and observations which occurred to a sufferer and prescriber to three hundred patients in this fever.

LETTER CXIX.

From the same.

Dear Sir, *Whitehaven, Sept.* 25, 1802.

I accept, with great pleasure, this favourable opportunity, which the return of my friend, Mr. Dickinson, to London, affords me of inclosing the last Annual Report of our Medical and Surgical Charity. I have deemed it necessary to notice that most useful discovery the Cow-Pock, and acknowledge myself much obliged to your judicious publication, for the brief statement given of it.

I am sorry to find the prejudices of the lower class of people will prevent, in this country, the immediate benefits of this simple, innocent, and efficacious expedient. On the other pages I have sent you a few cases of the spurious disease, which might have been introduced, but as I was apprehensive that their insertion might have proved injurious to the cause I wished to promote, they were omitted. I have been, for some time, earnestly engaged in endeavouring to suppress the influence of a very malignant fever, and trust that the prophylactic measures employed will be successful. The extrication of the oxygenated muriatic acid gas, by means of manganese, common salt, and oil of vitriol, has been admitted with considerable benefit.

That you may long enjoy the blessings of health and happiness, is the sincere wish of

Your faithful friend,

JOSHUA DIXON.

P. S. George Kennedy, aged three years, was inoculated, April 6, 1802, for the cow-pock, but as the punctured part, in the space of eight days, never discovered an inflammatory tendency, and immediately healed, he was re-inoculated with recent and limpid matter, on the 14th instant. The next day a small florid vesicle was formed, and enlarged in the usual manner. On the 18th he complained of head-ach, attended with intense heat, and very frequent pulse. These symptoms gradually subsided, and he perfectly recovered.

On the eighth day, April 22, Wm. Atkinson, aged ten months, and Samuel Donaldson, aged one year, were inoculated by Mr. Kent, the Dispensary apothecary, with matter taken from this child. It had then acquired a consistent form, though the preceding day, Mr. K. informed me, no portion of it, even in a fluid state, could be obtained. In less than 12 hours, the children became affected with a powerful degree of general fever, and the part where the virus was applied, inflamed exceedingly, and soon after evidently suppurated. William Atkinson was, at the same time, attacked with frequent, yet slight, convulsive twitchings, and several large red, but transient eruptions, occupied different parts of the body. The inflammation upon the arm extended in a circle, half an inch from the punctured part, with considerable hardness. Though it had not the orange-coloured tinge, which characterizes the true cow-pock, yet it did not assume an erysipelatous or gangrenous appearance. The redness and tumefaction, receding sensibly, were succeeded by a troublesome and tedious ulceration. The children never complained of any uneasiness upon pressure or motion of the arm. The axillary glands, which were repeatedly and carefully examined, could not be perceived in the least degree tumefied. The external applications were a saturnine lotion, and an emollient cataplasm; the latter only when a painful state of suppuration required it.

Isaac Cass, aged nine months, was also ino-

culated with the vaccine matter of Samuel Donaldson, but as the symptoms were very equivocal, he and William Atkinson were inoculated for the small-pox, which took effect in each, and produced a few pustules, with a slight febrile indisposition.

The parents of the other children were earnestly solicited, but would not permit them to be re-inoculated. The acrimony and inefficacy of the matter taken from George Kennedy, were also proved, in the case of a child, in private practice.

A. B. aged nine months, April 16, 1802, was inoculated for the cow-pock. The part where the matter was introduced, assumed no unusual appearance, but gradually inflamed and tumefied. Except a slight and transient accession of fever on the evening of the 22d, the child continued in perfect health. On the 24th she became very languid, and suffered a considerable degree of nausea and vomiting. On the 25th (the tenth day of the disease) a large florid eruption spread itself over the whole surface of the body, and the inoculated parts, deeply ulcerated, were surrounded by an extensive inflammation. In a few days the eruptions were scarcely perceptible, and the ulcerated parts healed gradually. This child was re-inoculated for the cow-pock, but did not admit the disease.

It may not be improper to observe, that George Kennedy, who supplied the vaccine matter for the inoculation of these children, was of a very plethoric habit, and suffered an inflammatory eruptive disease at the time he was inoculated; a circum-

stance not then noticed; that the patients resided in situations distant from each other, and that no febrile epidemic, to which children are peculiarly liable, prevailed, at that period, in the town.

LETTER CXX.

Dr. Lettsom to Dr. Dixon.

London, Oct. 21, 1806.

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We have hitherto passed the year with few epidemics, or at least with moderate symptoms. The pertussis has generally yielded to *cicuta* and *digitalis*, with occasional emetics, and subsequent tonics. The measles have appeared, under a mild inflammatory state, which is usually safer than the typhoid, and have yielded to antiphlogistics, without hectic or pulmonary consequences. The low typhus fever (*febris nervosa lentosa* of Huxham) has but rarely appeared, and still less the malignant. Rheumatisms have oftener occurred, but without peculiarity; and the anginas have not been fatal. The greatest scourge, and the greatest disgrace, to this city, is the fatality of the small-pox: the last week announces 99 deaths in the bills of mortality! whilst the magis-

trates and the government calmly survey the destruction; so little is life valued, compared to the precious metals! The apathy to the preservation of human life, has had a powerful advocate in Malthus, who, with many enlarged and acute observations on population, has given the most persuasive ones in favour of depopulation, and the most cogent ones against the law of Moses, as it respects the first order of the Creator to domesticated man—"Be fruitful and multiply." The commendations of the Monthly Reviewers, unqualified as they are, must tend to disseminate the idea among princes, and others, that the more mankind are killed off, the quicker they propagate: hence life and death need not be highly estimated; and, as in the times of Deucalion, from the lifeless stone animation is produced. Doctrines like these will, I trust, never discourage the friends of philanthropy from exertions for the preservation and amelioration of human life. In this my correspondent, who is continually endeavouring to save life, will unite with

His Friend,

J. C. LETTSOM.

LETTER CXXI.

Dr. Dixon to Dr. Lettsom.

Whitehaven, Nov. 1, 1807.

My dear Friend,

Allow me to apologize for that long inattention to your kind letters of Oct. 21 and June 25, which a variety of very interesting domestic and professional avocations has occasioned. I beg your acceptance of my best acknowledgments for your goodness in supplying me with useful and elegant publications.

Your judicious and friendly regard to the singular case of my son William has conferred an additional obligation. Large portions of teniæ have been discharged lately; and sometimes the separate links, or rather the worms themselves, pass involuntarily from him. I impute their generation in his bowels to the long use of a vegetable diet. When a youth he suffered an eruptive disease, chiefly occupying his face; and he supposed that in such cases I had recommended a total abstinence from animal food; in consequence, we could not prevail upon him to taste it. My regular treatment of teniæ is that of administering drastic cathartics, in large doses: viz. jalap and calomel, or gamboge, with scammony, resin of jalap, and calomel. Dr. Darwin, in his Zoonomia,

recommends an amalgama of quicksilver and tin-foil. I am acquainted with a practitioner who employed this preparation to the amount of several ounces, and effectually eradicated the disease. My apprehensions respecting its active operation and dangerous effects have not permitted me to prescribe it.

With regard to the favourable sentiments which you have the goodness to entertain of me, I cannot refrain adopting the language of an eminent writer, who observes, that under similar circumstances, in spite of all our modesty, every man loves *laudari a laudato viro.*

The inclosed Report of our Medical and Surgical Charity will prove the salubrity of that town, which the late Lord Lonsdale was accustomed to style the Montpelier of the North. Indeed, he was prompted to adopt this opinion from his own experience, as he always enjoyed better health in Whitehaven than in any other situation.

Many mistaken ideas having prevailed in this country relative to the cow-pox, which might prove injurious to its practice, I have deemed it eligible to re-consider the subject. In the Address delivered to the Presidents and Governors, at the Anniversary Meeting, I thought it necessary to combat the facts and arguments of its opponents.

The deplorable state of the numerous poor in this kingdom has attracted the attention of the benevolent and ingenious. I am happy to find that you had the philanthropy to enter the list,

and to propose the various modes of meliorating the unhappy condition of the most useful members of society. I should have supposed that your many and cogent practical engagements would scarcely permit you the opportunity of attending to literary pursuits. I experience considerable difficulty, even in this confined district, to allow for this purpose a very small portion of the day, and frequently it cannot be accomplished.

It may be justly intimated, that almost every concern in life is preferred to those which preserve or restore health. In no instance can we prove this observation more certainly than in the one you have selected, which refers to the fatal prevalence of a disease we can so readily prevent.

That you may have it long in your power to remove or mitigate the acutest sufferings of humanity is the sincere wish of

Your obliged and faithful Friend,

JOSHUA DIXON.

P. S. I have endeavoured to collect from every source the information necessary for the institution of a week day and sunday school charity. My unremitting and anxious engagements have not allowed me to carry any measure for that purpose into execution.

LETTER CXXII.

Dr. Lettsom to Dr. Dixon.

Dear Doctor, *London, Jan.* 25, 1808.

Thy letter, dated November 1, did not come to my hands till the 11th of January. It accompanied thy excellent report of the state of your Dispensary, in which was inserted thy judicious remarks on the small-pox and vaccination. These continued Annual Reports are not only immediately important, but will not be less so in future, as they constitute a statement of health and disease, resembling those of Sydenham and Huxham, calculated to illustrate the progress and type of disease. I may hence acknowledge thy politeness of "*Laudari à laudato viro,*" by "*Lætus sum laudari à te laudato viro.*"

With respect to the treatment of the tænia, I cannot but approve thy plan. It is what I have adopted since I read Madame Nouflet's. Prior to the exhibition of the drastic cathartics, as well as between the doses, she invariably recommended the powder of the male fern, which she imagined had a specific effect to kill the tænia, and the cathartics then removed them *per alvum.* An American writer, to whom I do not give much credit, says, that a solution of arsenic, internally taken, is a powerful antidote, and very soon discharges the tænia in a dead state. I tried it in one case, but

it did not succeed. The old-fashioned amalgam mentioned by Darwin, has been long considered as an important vermifuge; but an abstemious vegetable diet, has never appeared to me, as indicated.

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* * * * * * * * *

We have had here a mild, and, comparatively, healthy winter: one of the mildest hitherto that I recollect. Coughs and rheumatisms have prevailed, but not very generally. The small-pox (infanticides) and measles have been prevalent and fatal. The coffins for the parish poor, in England, for the small-pox deaths alone, have cost £10,000. What a dreadful and unnecessary waste of human life! Let us, however, endeavour by the aid of vaccination, to save the helpless children; for of every six we so persuade, we save one human life, and imitate the glorious example of Christ, who declares that he came to save life. He acted, that he never neglected any patient who requested his aid; and miraculous as was his power, he condescended to apply outward remedies. Adieu,

J. C. LETTSOM.

LETTER CXXIII.

From the same.

Dear Doctor, *London, Jan.* 9, 1809.

Thy letter, dated Nov. 25, 1808, came recently to me: it contained this paragraph, "I am happy to find that our mutual friend Dr. Hawes continues to possess that blessing which gives a zest to every other: May it long remain perfect!" This we mutually wished, but in the dispensations of divine wisdom, he is removed from works to rewards, of which the enclosed paper affords some memorial.

It is painful to reflect upon the ignorance and obstinacy of too many of the faculty, respecting the time and mode of taking and applying the cow-pock. "My golden rule," says Dr. Jenner, "is never to take it after the areola is fully formed." The more I see of this discovery, the more fully am I convinced, that were Jenner's golden rule adopted, not one vaccinated case would fail, as to security in health, and preservation from the small-pox. To reason is in vain with the lower classes of the community; and it is difficult to destroy the fables and misrepresentations of the deceased Rowley, or the living Moseley, in their influence on the ignorant poor. I have attempted a little *jeu d'esprit*,

addressed to these respective physicians, and to John Birch, which I have enclosed for thy acceptance.

The Royal Humane Society have unanimously resolved to place, at their own expence, a suitable monument of gratitude on the grave of Dr. Hawes; and a bust is forming of him, from the life, taken in a cast; and as this will be multiplied, I shall avail myself of one, to place among the worthies whose heads or portraits I am in possession of. I remain,

Thy sincere friend,

J. C. LETTSOM.

LETTER CXXIV.

Dr. DIXON to Dr. LETTSOM.

Whitehaven, Aug. 8, 1809.

My Dear Friend,

The receipt of your very kind, and, I assure you, most acceptable letter, is acknowledged with a satisfaction which I will not attempt to describe. It bears the date of Jan. 9, but I had not the gratification to receive it till the 15th of July.

Your accurate statement of the useful life of our mutual friend Dr. Hawes, was perused with a mixture of satisfaction and sorrow. Before I arrived at

its impressive and pathetic conclusion, the surest proof of affection and regard had been involuntarily expressed. My feelings at that moment may be best imagined by the sentiments of the poet, who, probably, under a similar circumstance of solicitude, thus observes:

> ——————— "The tear that flows
> From holy Friendship's eye, is registered
> For future joys, when tears can flow no more."

At the Anniversary Meeting of the President and Governors of our Medical and Surgical Charity, and also in its Annual Report, I thought it necessary to acknowledge, with gratitude, esteem, and respect, the many obligations which, during a period of 26 years, the ingenious and indefatigable Registrar of the Royal Humane Society had bestowed.

The following appropriate sentiments, which you will find I have applied to a former distressful occasion, may suitably close this anxious subject:

> "Vivet adhuc inter bonos!
> Vivet in Famâ nunquam moriturus!"

I am perfectly sensible of the honour you have conferred, by thinking so favourably of the desultory statements which I have made of the proceedings and events of the Whitehaven Dispensary.

To any practitioner desirous of obtaining information relative to acute or chronic diseases, and particularly their comparative fatal tendency at

certain periods of life, I should suppose the tabular arrangement of cases, in a numerous population of 18 or 20,000, might be useful. The observations are very diffuse, and yet, taken collectively, will display the state of disease in this country; and, in a general view, may promote medical science. Your kind congratulations respecting the recovery of my son were received with pleasure, and also with a grateful remembrance of your professional attentions to him. He has not given the least intimation, lately, of any recurrence of disease.

You will be surprised to find me again repeating the necessity of employing the vaccine matter as soon as it is formed, when pure and limpid. My motive for doing so, was to prevent the bad effects of a contrary practice: many surgeons, in the country, having neglected this precaution. The golden rule of Dr. Jenner shall be noticed in our next Report. Mine is that of never taking the matter later than the eighth day, when it is liquid and clear as the purest water. This state I am fully assured is the best criterion of its capacity to produce the genuine anti-variolous disease. I was not a little entertained with the humorous tracts addressed to Dr. Moseley, Dr. Rowley, and Mr. Birch. Against such opponents the shafts of ridicule will be directed with most successful efficacy.

The Royal Humane Society have judged perfectly right in paying every respectful regard to the memory of its founder. To his zealous and unremitting exertions, that beneficent institution owes

its present stability, and prospect of future usefulness.

I am much obliged to you for the very appropriate Report of the Royal Humane Society. The subject is judiciously compressed, and rendered in every respect deserving public approbation.

Sincere in my wishes that you may long and happily possess every temporal blessing,

I remain, Your faithful friend,

JOSHUA DIXON.

P. S. From my much esteemed friend Dr. Rush I received, a few years ago, his valuable portrait. I doubt not its resemblance to my worthy friend, at the age of *55*; but, as might be expected, the features are more strongly marked than they were in the year *1766*, when I was intimately acquainted with him, in Edinburgh. Our intercourse with America is so uncertain that I apprehend he has not received my last packet. If you correspond with Dr. Rush, would you be so kind as remind him of this circumstance.

I am sorry that I cannot send you the volume of Reports by this favourable opportunity: the stationer is so much engaged that it will not be finished this week. If possible I will procure one, though incomplete, for yourself.

I think I shall feel gratified by transmitting our Dispensary Report to Mrs. Hawes, or any of the family; to whom you may have the goodness to present my best sentiments of condolence and regard.

If you do not deem it intrusive, be so good as acquaint Dr. Jenner (of whose inestimable discovery I have experienced the benefits) with my sentiments upon a subject most interesting to the community. If my judgment is mistaken I would wish it rectified.

LETTER CXXV.

From the same.

Whitehaven, Aug. 26, 1810.

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Attentive as I am to every circumstance connected with the interesting and litigated subject of cow-pock inoculation, I am happy to inform you that our Medical and Surgical Charity can furnish an ample supply of proofs establishing its utility. Neither our confidence in it, nor that of the public, has been shaken by the following extraordinary facts: Two surgeons have met with cases, in which, after the children were completely vaccinated, and a period of two years in the one, and four in the other, had elapsed, the small-pox occurred, but in a degree remarkably mild and favourable. The following very singular and well-authenticated case I have just received from the judicious practitioner who attended it:

Miss J. N., aged six weeks, in 1801 was inoculated with cow-pock matter, and went through the disease in a regular manner. Other patients were inoculated from her with equal success. In the year 1809 she was inoculated with small-pox matter: The arm, as usual, inflamed for some days, which was all. In 1810, being exposed to the infection of small-pox, about a fortnight afterwards, she was seized with fever, and had a numerous eruption of small-pox; of which there can be no doubt, as a child inoculated from her took the disease.

Upon the 8th day, along with three surgeons, I was wished to visit this patient. The eruptions were distinct, but very small and horny. It appeared that the pustules were not fully formed, the previous vaccination having rendered the constitution less susceptible of the variolous contagion. This sentiment accords with that of the most experienced practitioners, and induced me to add the observation which concludes the Report I have the pleasure to inclose you.

Sincere in my wishes for your health and happiness, I remain,

Your faithful Friend,

JOSHUA DIXON.

P. S. In an adjacent manufacturing village I have attended lately upwards of thirty cases of typhus fever. Several of these were accompanied with symptoms of putrescency. All are recovering, an event for which I am *devoutly* thankful. The

remedies I employed were, emetics, nitrous and antimonial medicines; when inflammatory symptoms prevailed, the cold affusion, yeast, tonics, particularly the bark, acid elixir of vitriol, opiates, wine, and spirits. Query.—Is this the London practice?

LETTER CXXVI.

Dr. Lettsom to Dr. Dixon.

Dear Doctor, *London, Sept.* 20, 1810.

As I highly value your Report of the Whitehaven Dispensary, I take an early opportunity of acknowledging it; and I have perused it, as well as the preceding, with interest and approbation. I cannot but express my satisfaction that a person of your judgment should so favourably receive my Report of the Royal Humane Society, which is supported with the zeal heretofore experienced, and attended with increasing success.

The frequency of the typhus fever with you, is a painful proof of the poverty, bad ventilation, and crowded state of many of your inhabitants. When I was a young physician, it was also frequent in London; but it is now almost extinct. There is a fever-house established here purposely for the reception of infectious diseases; but during the last year seldom more than two or three have been within its walls at any one time. The improvements

in London in opening streets, &c. have no doubt had considerable influence in this respect, joined with medical aid. The births *increase* so much in London, whilst the deaths *decrease*, that I find by calculation, that during the last 20 years, compared with the preceding, the population has increased to the amount of 60,000.

There seems, in nature, scarcely a universal rule. We know that the small-pox will occur twice in certain individuals, as well as the small-pox after the cow-pock. These, however, are rare occurrences; they are attended indeed with some variation in their results. The second small-pox is very often fatal; but the small-pox after the cow-pock has never yet proved so; the eruption usually drying before the secondary fever. This is a curious fact, and though I know it by experience, I cannot explain it.

The lower classes here continue indifferent about the small-pox or cow-pock. They are fatalists in conduct, though perhaps not in principle, and consider infantile death, and pestilence, as sent by a Providence that religion leads us to believe beneficent. The deaths by the small-pox are usually about 30 every week. Alas! what a cruel species of death it inflicts! This consideration alone, one might hope, would act upon the humanity of parents, to avert this miserable exit of their offspring, which is now in their power.

I am sincerely, &c.

J. C. LETTSOM.

LETTER CXXVII.

Dr. Dixon to Dr. Lettsom.

My Dear Friend, *Whitehaven, Sept.* 1812.

It is not less my inclination than duty to apologize for delaying a reply to your kind and most acceptable letter of Aug. 13, 1811. Professional and domestic engagements occupy every moment of the day, though I always rise at five in the morning. I am surprized to find that you think novelty will be expected in annual publications, where the subject is never varied. For the last thirty years I have once, and frequently twice, and sometimes thrice, attempted to enumerate the motives which might influence the disposition of the opulent and humane, in favour of Medical Charity, or rather of Universal Beneficence. My principal, indeed my only endeavour is to impress the utility and absolute necessity of promoting the interest of those institutions, which are amply qualified to accomplish these laudable and useful purposes. You next advert to the increased population of the town of Whitehaven, and its remarkable salubrity. The first owes its obligations to the judicious regards of that best of good men, Lord Lonsdale, and the latter we humbly and devoutly hope is promoted by an unremitting attention to prevent the appearance or diffusion of general or specific contagions. I accord with you in

highly estimating the merits of the present practitioners of medicine; and yet how distant are they from the excellence which my much revered preceptor, Dr. Cullen, attained! I attended the seven courses which he gave in nearly four years. His last very instructive lectures, on chemistry, two institutional courses, and three of clinical lectures; but his first private course upon the practice of medicine, given in his library, was most excellent. When public professor, he expanded his system; but I think well of its compressed state. You gratefully, and very properly, refer to that assiduity and judgment which the professional gentlemen in London have the goodness to exert for the relief and removal of those distresses which the combined influence of sickness and indigence occasion. Allow me to reply to these judicious observations, by referring you to the general tenour of our introductory Dispensary Reports: particularly for the last year.

You mention the devastations of the small-pox, as amounting to 30 each week. That disease, similar to the plague, will be remembered by us. Whenever it accidentally appears, we confine its object, with the greatest caution, and in consequence the communication has been effectually prevented. God grant that in future we may be equally successful!

I am much obliged to you for your very ingenious and instructive Report of the Royal Humane Society, for 1811. It comprehends all that is ne-

cessary, and accumulates no superfluous information. I felt myself exceedingly affected by the introductory part of your 1st section. The inscription upon the tablet which perpetuates the memory of our mutual worthy friend Dr. Hawes, is justly elegantly, and pathetically expressed. Allow me to repeat a former sincere tribute of gratitude affection, and regard,

"Vivet adhuc inter bonos!
Vivet in Famâ nunquam moriturus!"

Denique Requiescat in Pace.

I remain,

Your affectionate and faithful friend,

JOSHUA DIXON.

LETTER CXXVIII.

Dr. LETTSOM to Dr. DIXON.

Dear Doctor, *London, Oct. 23,* 1815.

Your letter, dated July 31, did not come to my hands till Oct. 17, which I acknowledge the receipt of with pleasure, as it afforded me much important information. I could not but admire the manner and neatness of the whole composition of the Annual Report of the Dispensary, particularly of the impressive address to the Governors of your excellent Charity, which does honour to your head and heart. Similar charities are conducted in this metropolis with great felicity to the

objects they embrace, and no doubt with medical acquisition to the faculty, who render availing to the poor, the liberal donations of the rich.

I thank you for the kind manner with which you have introduced the Treasurer of the Royal Humane Society; a Society which is more and more amply, if not cordially supported; which might reasonably be doubted on the decease of the most active founder of it, our friend Dr. Hawes.

I have the satisfaction to add that a demi-volume of the Transactions of the Medical Society of London is nearly printed off. I have a paper or two in it. The most copious is Memoirs of the Life of one of our early Members, Dr. Johnstone, of Worcester. I had intended to have introduced some account of Dr. Rush, of Philadelphia, but possessing scanty materials only, I have merely devoted a sheet to the recollection of him *; who was an Æsculapian honour to the new hemisphere.

Although no very great work has lately appeared, publications of intrinsic merit have illuminated science, and with general science medicine has been improved, by works not great in bulk, but truly so in utility. The more general practice of cathartics in various diseases, and even in the gout; and in the puerperal fever with copious and early bleeding. The nature and cure of hydrocephalus internus, by the same means, and by regulating the constitution, as

* Recollections of Dr. Rush: 8vo.; printed 1815. Ed.

well as the local affection of the head, have been frequently successful. The low nervous fever, by general or local bleeding, and cathartics, have superseded the old practice of early stimulants and cordials. The numerous improvements in our department, as well as in every other, have greatly resulted from the free communications of short or partial essays of different persons; rather than by ponderous volumes, and by which *media* the knowledge of the many is concentrated, and brought into a brilliant focus. It is thus that your Report is interesting and instructive.

Whilst I am commemorating this luminous condensation of science, I am about to enter upon a work which will, I think, extend to two thick 4to volumes; consisting rather of an analysis of literary reading for 40 years, than of new or original composition *; but nothing that can preserve science, or trace the progress of mental improvement, should be oblivious.

Besides, a new edition of my Naturalist's Companion †, three times larger than the last edition, is in forwardness for the press. I am 70 years of age, and I wish it may be in the dispensation of the Author of all good to lengthen me out another year ‡,

* This alludes to the MS collection of the late Dr. A. Fothergill, which was left, by will, for Dr. Lettsom to edit. ED.

† Alluding to the Edition in preparation by the EDITOR of the present work.

‡ This letter is dated October 23d; Dr. Lettsom died on the 1st of November following. ED.

to effect some literary objects, before I emigrate *ad sedes æthereas unde negat redire quemquam;* till then, at least, accept the sincere esteem of your friend J. C. LETTSOM.

LETTER CXXIX.

Dr. DIXON to Dr. LETTSOM.

Whitehaven, Oct. 31, 1815.

My Dear Friend,

Your very kind letter of the 23rd instant was received with great satisfaction: mine, of July 31, to which it replies, could not be conveyed by an earlier opportunity than that of Mrs. [Dr.] Larchin's return to London, in October. We have no Members of Parliament residing in this part of the county; and seldom and transiently do they visit it. I hope our mutual good friend, Mr. Steele, will take the trouble of conveying this letter, and am perfectly sensible of your kindness, in the indulgent approval of those desultory observations, which introduce the usual arrangement of our proceedings in the management of the Dispensary. We wish it to promote the best interests of the public, and are not disappointed in our, perhaps, sanguine expectations.

To the memory of a most valuable friend, you have addressed, very judiciously, several highly

* It is scarcely necessary to observe, that Dr. Lettsom never received this letter; for which, and some of the preceding ones, from Dr. Lettsom, the Editor is indebted to Dr. Dixon. ED.

appropriate *Recollections*. I wish you had extended them; but the materials for that purpose could not be collected. You particularly notice the patriotic principle, and ardent spirit which displayed itself, of Dr. Rush, and your assertions are perfectly just. Often have I heard him strenuously declare, that America would be independent of the Mother Country in the space of half a century; but I am also fully convinced that he never expressed a sentiment, nor entertained a thought, that an event so important, and, to him, so exceedingly desirable, would, or even possibly could, be accomplished, at an earlier period.

I have inclosed three letters, received from my good friend in the years 1800, 1801, and 1811. Several others are lost. I think these will amuse you. The favourable and partial sentiments expressed of me must be corrected, as I by no means deserve them. The Dispensary Reports, my son Richard's New Interpretation of the 68th Psalm, and Exposition of the 110th, also Wm. Dixon's Tract upon the Prohibition of Distillation from Grain, a subject which you will not approve, with a long letter, were sent to Dr. Rush a little before his death, by my son William, from Liverpool, but, probably, were never received, which, indeed, was of no consequence.

Dr. Rush, by the date of the letters, died at the age of 67 or 68 years. He took his medical degree with me, at Edinburgh, in Sept. 1768, and dedicated his ingenious Thesis to Dr. Cullen,

which I have bound in a volume collecting the whole of the Dissertations for the year. A few months ago I happily completed my 71st year, and am most devoutly grateful for the many blessings conferred during that long extended period. A paralytic weakness in my right, compels me to write with my left hand, and my ideas are too rapid for its slow progress, so that I frequently omit letters, words, and sometimes the conclusion of sentences. Mr. Steele has just called upon me. He looks well, and gives me a very acceptable account of you. That you may enjoy the chief of human blessings, and long continue your useful labours in the vineyard of medicine, is the fervent wish of Your sincere Friend,

JOSHUA DIXON.

LETTER CXXX. *

Dr. RUSH to Dr. DIXON.

Dear Sir, *Philadelphia, Aug. 22*, 1800.

The absence of two and thirty years, accompanied with the distance of 3000 miles, have not effaced your name and worth from my memory.

I have read your pamphlets with pleasure, and rejoice in observing the numerous exploits of your benevolence. Dr. Boerhaave used to say, the "poor were his best patients, because God was

* This letter, and the two following, are those referred to in the foregoing. ED.

their pay-master." I can subscribe to the truth of this remark. To the patronage and prayers of the poor, I owe all my success in business, and perhaps my life. I began the world with an exhausted purse, and slender family connections, in Philadelphia. Through divine goodness I was soon established, and I have, for many years, enjoyed much more than I had ever expected of the emoluments of our profession. *Heaven* has added to the blessings of a competency, an excellent wife and eight children. But these are not all the gifts of a kind Providence, for which I have cause to be thankful. In my 56th year, I enjoy good health and spirits, with a capacity of studying with equal pleasure and profit. I want nothing now, but a heart more disposed to be thankful for all the favours and mercies I have enumerated.

Our city has been sorely afflicted since the year 1793, with a bilious malignant fever. It is the offspring of the exhalations of our docks and streets, and is very seldom contagious. It yields only to copious depleting remedies. It differs from your typhus fever in occurring only in the summer and autumn, and in not being contagious. Your fever is, I believe, the product of *human* miasmata, and is to be prevented by domestic cleanliness, and cured chiefly by *tonic* remedies.

I have spent some years in investigating the causes, seat, and cure of the diseases of the mind. The result of my inquiries and observations will probably be published in the course of a few years.

It will give me great pleasure to hear from you. I have not seen Mr. Rumney.

All your friends shall be the friends of, Dear Sir, your sincere old friend and fellow student,

BENJAMIN RUSH.

LETTER CXXXI.

From the same.

Philadelphia, July 31, 1801.

My Dear Friend,

I have seldom been more gratified than by the receipt of your letter of the 1st of May last. I read it to my wife and daughter, who were with me at the time of its arrival. They both enjoyed it. My wife's eyes filled with tears when she heard the simple narrative of your domestic happiness. She listened with pleasure to me while I spoke of your uncommon industry in acquiring knowledge in the University of Edinburgh; of your amiable and inoffensive manners; and, above all, of your open profession of religion, at a time, and in a society, in which even external morality subjected a young man to the imputation of weakness and superstition. Both my wife and daughter unite with me in thanking you for your kind remembrance of us on Saturday nights. We shall not be ungrateful for the honour you have done us. May Heaven continue to bless and prosper all your efforts to do good! I perceive you have not laboured in vain. Our charities alone will follow us beyond the grave.

Your book, * forwarded by your son from Liverpool, arrived two weeks after your letter. I have read it with great pleasure. Many of your facts upon contagion are new and interesting; the style of the whole performance is, moreover, truly elegant and classical. Accept of my thanks for it.

I am now preparing a new edition of my Medical Inquiries for the press, in which I shall retract the opinion I formerly published of the yellow fever being a contagious disease. It originates only from miasmata, and spreads (in a few instances excepted) only from the foul air of the atmosphere.

I inclose you a loose sheet, extracted from the Medical Repository of New York (an excellent work), upon the cure of pulmonary consumption by a salivation and tonic remedies.

Our country continues to enjoy liberty, peace, and plenty under a mild government, flourishing agriculture, and extensive commerce. Poverty is scarcely known among us, and a beggar is a rare sight in every part of the United States.

Present my respects to Mrs. Dixon and your two very promising sons. I hope the Doctor will be as successful and useful as a physician in Carlisle, as his father has been at Whitehaven.

Adieu! From, Dear Sir,

Your sincere and affectionate old Friend,

BENJAMIN RUSH.

* "The Literary Life of Wm. Brownrigg, M.D. F.R.S., &c. By Joshua Dixon, M.D." 8vo. 1801. ED.

LETTER CXXXII.

From the same.

Philadelphia, Nov. 5, 1811.

My Dear Old Friend,

Your affectionate letter, accompanied with the Reports of the Whitehaven Dispensary, did not reach me until one year after they left your hands. I regret this delay in their passage to me, inasmuch as it favoured a suspicion that your correspondence was less dear to me than formerly. This is so far from being the case, that I sincerely wish it may close only with our lives.

I have read the Reports of your Dispensary with pleasure. The fact you have mentioned in one of them, of the production of an epidemic bowel disease, by the general use of unripe potatoes, I shall mention, with several other facts of epidemics being produced by unwholesome aliments, in my lectures, in the course of the approaching winter.

My third son has just returned from completing his medical education in your country, and is now my assistant in business, which for some years past has been very extensive, and disproportioned to the strength which is usually connected with the 66th year of human life. Though somewhat weaker than at 40 or 50, I enjoy, through Divine Goodness, uncommon health, and as much pleasure in study, as I did when we were contemporaries in the College of Edinburgh.

Our city has escaped the yellow fever for several years past. A belief in its domestic origin is less unpopular than it was in the year 1793. Most of the physicians of our country now admit that opinion, particularly those who live in inland situations, and who occasionally met with the disease under circumstances in which it was impossible for it to originate from any other cause than miasmatic exhalations.

I have lately published a volume of Introductory Lectures upon a variety of subjects, directly or indirectly connected with medicine. Tell me in what manner I shall send a copy of them to you.

Adieu, my dear old friend; continue to favour me with your friendly letters; and be assured of the unabated respect, esteem, and friendship of

Yours sincerely and affectionately,

BENJAMIN RUSH.

P. S. I think I perceive, both your style and sentiments in the preface to all the Reports of your Dispensary: how delightful it is to possess a heart capable of the pleasures of beneficence which you so feelingly describe. If a cup of cold water, given away from pure motives, shall not lose its reward, what a harvest of blessings await such important and useful labours as yours have been in the line of your profession!

LETTER CXXXIII.

From Dr. PERCIVAL to Dr. LETTSOM.

Manchester, June 4, 1772.

My Dear Sir,

I am glad to hear that you are preparing for the press a second edition of your Treatise on Tea. The work has done you great credit, and the public will receive with satisfaction any additions you may make to it. I wish I could furnish you with any information concerning it worthy of your notice. I have not yet had time to digest the few observations I have made on Coffee.

My leisure hours have lately been employed in making experiments on Mephitic Air. The paper which I have drawn up will probably be laid before the Royal Society. I have made much use of it medicinally: it has had a very good effect in two cancerous cases; has mitigated the pains; entirely sweetened the juices of the ulcer; and produced a better digestion. I have had an account from Leeds of a highly putrid fever, attended with a diarrhœa, and the most unfavourable symptoms, which was cured by the injection of Mephitic Air into the intestines, by the machine used for tobacco clysters. The fœtor of the stools was soon corrected, the diarrhœa checked; and in two days the patient was out of danger.

My friend, Dr. Priestley, is now preparing for the press, proposals for the cure of the Scurvy, by the use of water artificially impregnated, by a very simple contrivance of his invention, with Fixable Air. He made his experiments before the College of Physicians, and a favourable report being made of the success of them to the Lords of the Admiralty, they have ordered trial to be made of the remedy in the ships which are destined to convey Mr. Banks and Dr. Solander into the South Seas.

I write to you in haste, and with great freedom. It will give me pleasure to be favoured with your correspondence, and to embrace every opportunity of testifying the sincerity and respect with which,

I am, dear Sir,
Your affectionate friend,
And most obedient servant,
T. PERCIVAL.

LETTER CXXXIV.

From the same.

Manchester, Oct. 2, 1772.

Accept my best thanks, dear Sir, for your very friendly letter of the 14th instant, and for the obliging present of your late ingenious publica-

tion on Fevers, which I received only a few days ago. The perusal of it has afforded me equal pleasure and instruction; and I can suggest no other objection to it, than that it is too short, a fault which you have promised to amend.

In your letter you express a doubt concerning the good effects of fixed air in putrid fevers. Experience has afforded me the most satisfactory conviction on this subject. I do not, indeed, apprehend that any antiseptic, as such, is capable of curing a fever, because the nervous system is in all disorders of this class more or less affected. But the correction of the putrid colluvies in the *primæ viæ*, is certainly a very important object, and contributes to mitigate, and even to prevent, many distressing symptoms. A patient I lately attended, and whose fever proved fatal, was always sensible of immediate relief from the injection of fixed air into the intestines; his belly (which at other times was tense as a drum) immediately after subsided, and he generally enjoyed half an hour's composed rest; his stools, also, by this operation, entirely lost their fœtor. In this case, such a remedy can be considered only as a topical one, adapted to alleviate for a time a partial irritation, but not to remove the cause of the disorder.

I have now under my care a lady who labours under a true scurvy, arising from an excessive and long continued acidity in the stomach and first passages. Does not this fact militate against

your opinion, that the saline acrimony is the only one which can take place in the system?

I am, &c.

THO. PERCIVAL.

LETTER CXXXV.

From the same.

Dear Sir, *Manchester, June* 13, 1783.

I received the obliging present of your publications a few days ago, and have devoted my first leisure moments to the perusal of the very animated and interesting account of Dr. Fothergill. The portrait you have drawn exhibits a most pleasing, yet exact likeness, of our venerable and amiable friend; and I wish the contemplation of it, may lead many to emulate the excellent original. But, having undertaken the office of the biographer, not that of the encomiast, you have touched, with delicate censure, some of the failings to which this great man was incident; and from which, indeed, it is not the lot of humanity to be exempt. In the 147th page, particularly, you mention "his promptitude in adopting opinions, and tenacious retention of them." I know he has been condemned by his brethren of the Faculty on this account; but, I think, without sufficient candour or indulgence. There was no professional or intellectual talent on which he

valued himself so highly, as his skill in the discrimination of diseases: this skill he certainly possessed in a very eminent degree; and, as it is the result of extensive experience and accurate observation, aided by a quick apprehension and enlarged understanding, it gradually becomes an almost instantaneous, or intuitive operation of the judgment, which claims implicit assent to all its decisions. If such be the constitution of the human mind, we cannot be surprised at the promptness of Dr. Fothergill to form his opinions, and that he reposed a confidence in them, not always proportioned to their degree of probability. We may add, too, that the multiplicity and rapid succession of his engagements admitted not of doubt or hesitation in his practice; he was compelled to act upon the evidence which each case presented at the first view; and what necessity enforced, habit rendered familiar, and success satisfactory.

The letter, of which you have given an extract in the 72d page, was occasioned by a conversation I had with the Doctor at my house, on the subject of friendship. He had adopted the opinion of Mr. Soame Jenyns, that this is a fictitious virtue, neither authorized nor encouraged by the Christian Dispensation. To such a doctrine, however ingeniously supported by our friend, I could not be persuaded to accede; and I urged to him, that though benevolence is the great law of the Gospel, it must have its commencement in the more confined and partial charities. The man who

has not felt the appropriated regard of a son, a brother, a husband, or a friend, cannot have a heart capable of being expanded with philanthropy. Even piety itself originates from the filial relation, and we learn to transfer to the Deity that gratitude and veneration with which the tender offices and wisdom of our parents first inspired us. It is not the object of Christianity to overturn, but to regulate the economy of the human mind; and if benevolence must have its foundation in private affection, the Divine Law, which directs the former, necessarily inculcates the latter.

I am glad to find that you propose to insert, in your third volume, an account of Dr. Fothergill's decease. The experience which I have had of the efficacy of Mercury in similar cases, has often made me lament that it was not tried in his. I must take the liberty of referring you, for some observations on this subject, to a paper which I communicated to Dr. Simmons, and which he has published in the first number of the Medical Journal, volume IV.

Your much obliged and
affectionate humble servant,
THO. PERCIVAL.

LETTER CXXXVI.

From the same.

Manchester, March 19, 1791.

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My friend Dr. Perceval of Dublin, has sent me a curious account of the effects of different substances on the Pupæ of the Musca Cibaria. One of these insects lived in olive oil forty-one minutes. Another, in rectified spirits, an hour and a half. A third, in a solution of corrosive sublimate, more than two hours and fifty minutes. A fourth, in a saturated solution of sea-salt, two hours and twenty-two minutes. A fifth, in water distilled from the seeds of hemlock, two hours and fourteen minutes. A sixth, in a saturated solution of *ferrum vitriolatum*, two hours and eighteen minutes. A seventh, in a solution of *hepar sulph.* in rectified spirits, two hours and fifteen minutes.

These insects, I have no doubt, are the same with the bots in horses; and it is probable that oil would be the most effectual, as well as the safest remedy for their destruction.

An ingenious correspondent, who is now at Göttingen, has transmitted to me the following case, which I shall deliver in his own words:

"During my stay at Hamburgh, through the kindness of Dr. Ross, I had an opportunity of observing the good effects of a low diet, in a violent palpitation of the heart, proceeding probably from an organic injury. Miss B. a young lady of about eighteen, possessed a remarkably fine voice, and was of course, frequently solicited to sing in company. After more than usual exertion one evening, she became subject to this distressing symptom, which appeared at first, however, so inconsiderable, as scarcely to deserve notice. In a week afterwards she experienced it in such a degree as to be wholly unable to speak, or even to whisper without producing the most violent palpitations; and these were likewise observed to follow a meal of animal, or any nutritious food. This was the case when the Doctor first mentioned her case to me; and as I was upon familiar terms in his family, I had frequent opportunities of observing the success of his mode of treatment, which consisted in as rigid an abstinence as was consistent with the maintenance of life. In the first fourteen days, success was not very apparent; but in the third week, at which time I left Hamburgh, the alteration in the state of Miss B.'s complaint became more visible, and a rational presumption might be formed of a speedy and perfect recovery." This treatment will not, perhaps, be received in England with that full confidence, which Dr. R. on the ground of extensive experience, reposes in it; and in a country where the name of Stahl gives

a sanction to every starving doctrine, it has also its opposers. The following reflections as nearly as I can recollect, are those of Dr. Ross; which will excuse the manner in which they are expressed. "It is evident that such a treatment can only be serviceable in cases where the disease has an organic origin; and even then only when the aneurism is inconsiderable. In such cases a diminished sanguification, and if the subject will bear it, venesection, enable the vessels to regain their tone; and obviate farther dilatation. On the contrary, considering the disease as nervous, and at its first appearance, and in delicate persons, the diagnostic is difficult, the employment of steel, and other tonics, augments the quantity, and encreases the momentum of the blood: circumstances which frustrate every operation of nature to repair the injury. The rudiments of this practice may be found in Valsalva, but more at large in Morgagni."

T. P.

LETTER CXXXVII.

From the same.

Edinburgh, Dec. 20, 1792.

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Extract of a Letter from Mr. Hoffmann, Surgeon to the King of Prussia, now at Edinburgh,

to Dr. Ferriar of Manchester, dated Edinburgh, Dec. 8, 1792.

"Give me leave to mention to you a case of Hydrophobia Vera without the bite of a mad dog. A man got cold, and had all the symptoms of pleurisy. He was bled, and treated upon the antiphlogistic plan; the respiration, however, remained difficult, and the following day the patient could not take any fluid, without falling into convulsions and tetanus. He was bled again, and a blister was applied on the whole neck, but the convulsions continued, with a constant discharge of saliva, and he now attempted to bite every person who came near to him. These symptoms continued 24 hours, when the patient died. On dissection, all the vessels of the brain were found very much distended with blood, and in the sinus longitudinalis the blood was of a black colour, and nearly congrumated. The third ventricle of the brain was full of water, the diaphragm was inflamed in one part near the middle, and throughout of a red colour. The liver had a gangrenous spot, the stomach was small and contracted. The intestines were much inflated with air, and in several parts inflamed, the upper part of the œsophagus was also a little inflamed. I think it is very clear in this case, that the hydrophobia was entirely a symptom of inflammation produced by cold. The case is related by Mr. Thedon of Berlin."

T. P.

LETTER CXXXVIII.

Dr. STOKES to Dr. LETTSOM.

Kidderminster, Dec. 10, 1789.

Dear Sir,

I have frequent occasion to recollect with grateful pleasure your communications respecting the Quassia in my private practice, which is a most valuable medicine, as is the Digitalis, in the estimation of us country physicians. In the two last cases I failed at first; but after a course of bark it succeeded. But in cases of dropsy, after ill-treated scarlet fever, I succeed better with squills and mercury. Digitalis has indeed failed me in it so much, that I believe I shall not prescribe it again. And indeed in general dropsy I choose rather to begin with squills and mercury, than enter at once on a remedy which requires in many cases a daily inspection.

The Italian servant of a gentleman who lately paid me a visit, on being shewn a root of mangel wurzel, said it was white beet. Boiled, and eaten with mutton, vinegar and oil, it was very good.

Dr. James Sims's paper on Scarlet Fever in the Medical Society's Memoirs, I read with peculiar pleasure. But I could wish to know whether he continues to insist so fully on giving rhubarb every day. I have been led to pay much attention to

his remark, but I am rather inclined to think it safer to adhere to daily clysters. I am disposed also to incline to opium, in small repeated doses, than in full ones, in continued fever, as given by Campbell. In these delicacies we wish to be confirmed, or corrected by those who are real masters in their profession.

I am, dear Sir,

Your faithful and

very obedient humble servant,

JONATHAN STOKES.

LETTER CXXXIX.

Dr. JENNER to Dr. LETTSOM.

My Dear Sir, *Cheltenham, Oct.* 18, 1801.

I am ashamed to think what a length of time has passed away since I received your last obliging letter, with the valuable present that accompanied it; and should be more so, had I not in some measure anticipated the thanks I now beg you to accept. For me to bestow praises on your valuable Work on the Cow-pox, would bear hard on egotism, but I may, without indelicacy, be allowed to reflect those I hear from others. I have the pleasure of saying, that nothing which has hitherto been written on the subject, appears to have made so sensible an impression on the minds of those

who have perused it, as your elegant and excellent Treatise.

Your Apostrophes are peculiarly animated and impressive. I was happy to see that you had not forgot the critics, whose cold manner of treating the subject well deserved reprehension.

You have obliged me much in sending copies of your Work to the gentlemen whose names I mentioned to you. I will take the liberty of suggesting one more—Lord Hawkesbury; having been informed that that nobleman labours under prejudices respecting the efficacy of Vaccine Inoculation, from having been made acquainted with the Oxford cases. These cases I took pains to investigate. (See the result in my letter to Mr. Fermor in the last Medical Journal). It is a pity, that men of rank and talent will presume to decide upon the merits of Vaccine Inoculation, unaided by a competent knowledge of the matter. But, my Dear Doctor, we must submit to our fate in this respect; it is useless to murmur—a medical man is seldom tried by his Peers.

I hope ere long to have the pleasure of shaking you by the hand in town, and of personally expressing my obligations to you. Till then adieu! and believe me very faithfully,

Yours,

EDW. JENNER.

LETTER CXL.

From the same.

March 19, 1802.

Dear Sir,

A Committee of the House of Commons is now sitting to inquire into the merits of the Vaccine Discovery. Your admirable little Volume lies upon their table, and I am happy to say it seems to be their leading star. They take your assertions (page 5), as matter to work upon for proof. I have taken the liberty of giving your name, presuming you will be able to spare time to give your *vivâ voce* evidence when called upon. This will probably be the beginning of next week. I shall then have the pleasure of seeing you. Till that time,

Dear Sir,

Adieu!

very faithfully yours,

E. J.

LETTER CXLI.

From the same.

Cheltenham, Nov. 22, 1811.

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I have considered London as the centre of opposition to the Vaccine Practice, but even there, in spite of the base and murderous designs of a few bad-minded individuals, the Small Pox has wonderfully decreased; and in the provinces its mortality has lessened in a still greater proportion. For the great and grand effects of Vaccination the eye must quit this little spot, and survey it among other European countries, and still more particularly among the vast empires of Asia and America. In Mexico and Peru the disease is nearly extinct. The documents which pour in upon me from these distant regions fill me with inexpressible delight. You shall have copies when I can get them transcribed.

The chief impediments to its general adoption here, I am confident, are our newspapers and some of our magazines. Whenever a case of what is called failure starts up, in it goes to a newspaper, with all the exaggeration with which envy and malice can garnish it. Mr. Ring has long been collecting cases of secondary Small Pox, and

has brought together great numbers, with the view of publishing them. I wish you would be good enough to furnish him with those which you must have met with during your long and extensive practice. This I think will be the best mode of silencing those whom we find cavilling about failures in Vaccination.

E. J.

LETTER CXLII.

Dr. PEARCE to Dr. LETTSOM.

Sir, *St. Croix, March* 4, 1768.

Though I am not so happy as to have a personal acquaintance with you, I am no stranger to your abilities, from whence, as I have heard you are soon to return to England, I have thought it incumbent on me, to communicate a few of my observations, in order to their being laid before the Society of Physicians in London, if you should think them worthy notice. You will please to excuse any defect, as I have not been bred to Physic.

Some years ago I was told, that lemon juice and gunpowder were an immediate cure for Dysentery; in consequence of which I made use of the acid and nitre, which had the desired effect. Afterwards I used the acid alone, and sometimes with a tea-spoonful of table salt, both which succeeded

full as well as the acid and nitre; and I have found, by repeated trials, that the same remedies answer in hæmorrhoids, fevers, sore throats, diarrhœas, vomitings, and bilious colics, in the last of which it should be given as well in clysters as by the mouth: lemon or lime juice, table salt, castile soap and water, will be found the best enema that can be given in that case. In vomitings a table-spoonfull of lemon juice should be administered after every evacuation, and in the other complaints a wine-glass-full of the acid should be given repeatedly. I was, some time ago, from heats and colds, seized with a violent pain in my bowels, fixed about the navel, the spasm drawing my head down to my knees: I took a glass of lime juice, which, in less than a minute, removed the pain, and enabled me to move about my business.

That cold immersion is an excellent febrifuge and corroborant I have experienced by many trials on myself and others. In ardent fevers I have used the cold bath and lemon juice with great success; and, by repeated trials, I have found that two or three wine-glasses of lemon juice given in the height of fever, in the course of a day, with cold water or lemonade in the intervals, exceeded every other medicine as a febrifuge: composing the stomach, promoting expectoration, and checking attendant coughs, though violent. Yesterday a negro-wench of my own, attacked with a violent cough and fever, took two glasses of lime

juice, at four hours distance, which perfectly expelled the fever, and this morning she goes about her business with spirit and activity, phlegm being expectorated, and no irritation to cough remaining.

I am, with all imaginable respect,
Sir, your most obedient servant,
FRANCIS PEARCE*.

* Dr. Pearce was a kind of independent private gentleman, who had read some old medical books, and thought much, but without medical education or practice, when he attempted to introduce his cold drinks and cold aspersions in the low, bilious, remittent, and typhoid fevers of the West Indies. Success brought him a share of practice, which augmented, because, I presume, it was successful; and from the favourable opinion of his abilities, I was induced to ask for him a doctor's degree from Aberdeen. I had only one interview with him: he possessed an inquisitive mind, and strong original powers for investigation; but his education was circumscribed, and his medical knowledge arose from self-exertion, when he had few books, and no means of personal information. Had he been favoured with the usual sources of improvement, I think he would have proved a luminous character: he shone, indeed, in the darkness of Santa Cruz; but he might have appeared luminous any where, had he been enabled to avail himself of the usual means of information.

J. C. L.

LETTER CXLIII.

From the same.

May 27, 1766.

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Cold immersions, with full draughts of very cold water, have often succeeded against the dry belly-ach, when every other application failed. Seven years ago I was attacked with violent fever, vomiting, pain of the head, back, and belly; the urine was very small in quantity, and as red as blood. I frequently took lime juice by teacupfuls, and bathed in cold water, and speedily recovered. A negro wench belonging to Mr. Shoy, a planter of St. Croix, was attacked with continued fever; she became delirious on the 9th day, and continued so till the 22d. Being supported by two able negroes, six pails full of cold water were poured over her head and body, one immemediately after the other, when her senses were perfectly restored. Being put to bed, and a wine-glass-full of lime juice given her, she fell into a profound sleep, and awoke six or eight hours after, perfectly free from every complaint, excepting weakness, from which she was soon relieved by proper diet.

A negro, belonging to Capt. Grandy of this town, being attacked with ardent fever, I advised a pail-full of cold water to be thrown over him, and the patient put to bed; but, though his spirits were raised, the fever did not abate. A second pail-full was thrown over him, which procured a remission of the fever, and a third restored him to health. My own boy has been four times cured by immersion, in less than an hour each time. I use the cold bath every morning, and if I find myself heavy and feverish, complain of a cold, cough, or sore throat, a few times bathing never fails to remove them. I make it a point to avoid heating my blood; and instead of buttoning up when I find I cannot avoid being wet by a shower, I throw myself open to it.

F. P.

LETTER CXLIV.

From the same.

Aug. 20, 1768.

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I have long observed that the cooler patients are kept in fever and inflammatory complaints the better it fares with them: warm rooms and hot regimen greatly adding to the cause. I have used the lemon juice and salt many times since

your departure with continual success against dysenteries and diarrhœas. The cork of a bottle burnt, powdered, and mixed with the acid, will make it more efficacious in obstinate cases.

F. P.

LETTER CXLV.

From the same.

Feb. 1, 1769.

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I continue to experience the efficacy of lemon juice in dysenteries and diarrhœas, and more especially if cold immersions or effusions are at the same time used as assistants. A negro of Mr. Myers's, extremely reduced by dysentery, the fæces being offensive, black, and coming away involuntarily, was restored to health in two days, by taking a glass-full of lime juice and salt several times a day.

In fevers, particularly those of the bilious kind, this plan of treatment is very efficacious. My practice is to affuse the patient from the head downwards with about three gallons of cold water, after which he is wiped dry and put to bed, and a small wine-glass of lemon juice given him. This process is to be repeated every two hours, till the

fever is expelled, which sometimes happens in six or eight hours; but often there is no occasion for a second effusion.

A negro boy, who had taken the infection of small pox, complaining of great heats and pains in the head and back, bathed in the sea for a quarter of an hour, when he became free from all complaint. In about two hours after, the pains and fever returned, but moderately, followed by a distinct eruption of less than 100 pustules.

F. P.

LETTER CXLVI.

From the same.

Feb. 22, 1769.

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The cold-bath, with lemon juice, or the mucilaginous gums, cures hæmorrhois in a few days, as I have often proved. In sore throats, however virulent, if the patient take two or three spoonfuls of lemon-juice several times a day, and wrap a stocking, or any thing else wetted with cold water, about his neck, he will obtain speedy relief. Cloths frequently dipped in cold water or vinegar, and *sal ammoniac,* wrapt round the patient's neck, with lemon-juice and full doses of nitre,

have been very efficacious in quinsies and the worst sore-throats.

Cold immersions, with full draughts of very cold water, have succeeded against dry belly-ach, when every other application previously made had failed. In this complaint, and all pains from inflammation, a napkin wetted with cold water should be applied to the pained part, and frequently renewed, and the patient should drink plentifully of cold water or lemonade.

A negro girl, five years old, was brought to me two hours ago in a very hot fever. I ordered two gallons of cold water to be thrown over her, and directed her to be put to bed. She is now up and perfectly well. That the external application of cold water is efficacious in inflammatory cases, is evident from the relief inflamed eyes receive from its being dropped therein. In recent venereal cases the cure is greatly expedited by the use of the cold bath. In a case of this kind which had been greatly mismanaged, the patient complaining of pains in every part of his body, with continual fever, I directed the cold bath twice a day, taking after each immersion a dose of a tincture of guaiacum and camphor, sufficient to procure two or three stools in every twenty-four hours. The first immersion occasioned an intermission of his pains, and he was soon cured. Gonorrhœa may be cured with the assistance of cold water, but cannot be used with safety where mercury is given.

F. P.

LETTER CXLVII.

From the same.

May 13, 1769.

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A negro of Mr. Barry's, labouring under a continued fever, which had deprived him of his senses, had three gallons of cold water thrown over him, which restored him to his reason. A second affusion confirmed the good effects of the first, after which he was put to bed, and had a small glass of lime-juice given him, which greatly reduced the fever. A repetition of the affusion and acid two or three times more, at four hours distance, restored him to perfect health, without the use of bark. To prevent a return of fever, complaining of a retention of urine, a cloth dipped in cold water was laid over the abdomen, which occasioned a free discharge of urine in less than ten minutes.

A negro seaman belonging to Capt. Hartman, was seized with violent pain in the bowels, accompanied by fever. He was bled, and took camphor and nitre, and warm fomentations were applied to the abdomen, which, not affording relief, I was consulted. I ordered woollen cloths dipped in cold water to be applied to the abdomen, and acid drinks, and cold water to be given frequently.

His pains and fever presently ceased, and he was soon restored to health.

A particular acquaintance of mine was afflicted with pains in his bowels, for which he took purgatives and other medicines in vain. I ordered him to take every thing cold, and to drink plentifully of cold water, which gave him immediate relief.

F. P.

LETTER CXLVIII.

From the same.

June 1, 1769.

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I have lately been twice attacked by fever, violent head-achs, and pains in every part of my body, which I overcame in the course of a day by lemon-juice, and cold bathing. The last time, after bathing, I wetted my cap in cold water, and kept it on my head till dry, with the most pleasing effect.

A negro-woman complaining of a troublesome dysuria, took a large wine-glass-full of lemon-juice, and applied cloths dipped in cold water over the abdomen, in consequence of which she was soon restored to health.

A captain of a ship, attacked with the dry belly-ach, took a wine-glass full of lemon-juice,

and a quarter of an ounce of table-salt, which procured several stools, and restored him to health.

Mrs. Bladwell, whose constitution had been made tender by keeping herself too warmly clothed and washing in warm water, had been tormented for several years with troublesome coughs and frequent colds. She was advised to be more thinly clad, and to wash her feet and legs in cold instead of warm water. Her coughs have left her, and she is perfectly well.

F. P.

LETTER CXLIX.

From the same.

June 13, 1769.

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It gives me great pleasure to learn from your favour of the 10th of February, from Edinburgh, that my method of treating fever has taken place with you, and I am convinced it is equally efficacious in inflammatory complaints. Captain Muir of Glasgow, who had complained for six months of a violent fixed pain in his breast, accompanied with dyspnœa, and great weakness, was advised by the faculty of Scotland to take a voyage to the West Indies; but not obtaining the hoped-for re-

lief, a pail-full of cold sea-water was thrown over him morning and evening, taking after each affusion, a glass full of lemon-juice, and using sherbet for common drink, which restored him to perfect health in ten days, excepting the prickly heat, which was very thick about his breast.

Mrs. Evans, troubled with hæmorrhoids, discharging nearly a pint of blood during each attack, made use of the cold affusion twice or thrice a day, drinking a glass-full of lemon-juice after each affusion, and tart lemonade frequently; and in a few days was restored to perfect health.

Mr. Lytton, nearly eighty, in consequence of walking thirty miles in very warm weather, was brought into a very weak state, accompanied by a low fever, but by using the cold affusion and acid drinks, he was restored to health in a very few days.

Mr. Bladwell, brother-in-law to your cousin Coakley, afflicted with severe eruptions, was cured in less than six weeks by tincture of guaiacum, camphor, sarsaparilla, and cold bathing.

F. P.

LETTER CL.

From the same.

July 22, 1769.

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Barnes Robinson, labouring under jaundice with a prominent abdomen, and shoulders much pinched in, made use of the cold affusion several times a day, taking a glass-full of lemon or lime-juice after each affusion, and drinking tart sherbet. The abdomen was reduced to its natural size, the skin to its usual colour, and his whole frame invigorated.

Mr. Low, complaining of pain in the region of the kidneys, with scanty and high-coloured turbid urine, made use of cold immersions several times a day, with sweet spirits of nitre and lemon-juice, which soon relieved the pain.

A negro-girl, twelve years old, was attacked with violent head-ach and fever, with a quick and high pulse, and laboured respiration. Half a gallon of cold water was thrown over her head and body every second of time, for about a minute, after which she was wiped dry, put to bed, and two spoonfulls of lemon-juice given her. In an hour after, her complaints not being removed, the cold affusion and acid were repeated, which soon

brought on a remission of fever, and the remedies being again administered at the end of another hour, she was restored to health.

A negro-girl, five years old, had a smart fever. Cold water was thrown over her, in the same manner, for about half a minute, and a table-spoon-full of acid given her, which removed the fever in less than half an hour. This mode of treatment in continued and intermittent fevers has very rarely failed, and I have uniformly succeeded in inflammations of the intestines, stomach, lungs, kidneys, ureters, bladder, throat, and of most parts of the body.

F. P.

LETTER CLI.

From the same.

March 28, 1770.

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I have received your Dissertation on Tea, of which I have been for many years past a great consumer; generally not drinking less than half a gallon a day, without milk, and I cannot say that I have discovered from my nicest observations that Bohea was ever hurtful to the nerves. But then it is to be observed, that I drink it weak and cool.

Green tea I have frequently attempted to use, but if I drank it for a few days it sunk my spirits, and reduced me greatly. A gentleman of New York was seized at Dominica with a quotidian, which tormented him for more than six months, notwithstanding he had taken several emetics, and a great quantity of bark. When he felt the shivering, a large pail full of cold water was thrown over him, and he went to bed. In about five minutes the ague went off, and the fever flushed out moderately for about fifteen minutes, leaving him with a gentler sweat than usual. The next day he had no ague, but a slight return of the fever, upon which a pail-full of cold water was thrown over him, which subdued it in less than ten minutes, when he required something to eat. He has not been troubled with any return. Patients thus cured require no preventive.

F. P.

LETTER CLII.

From the same.

April 12, 1774.

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Your Treatise on Fevers I have read over several times with extreme satisfaction, and find your observations agreeable to my sentiments. The

waiting for nature to form a crisis proceeds from that absurd opinion that fevers are occasioned by her efforts to expel offending humours.

A young man, long afflicted with epilepsy, having several fits every week, for which he had obtained no relief from medicine, brought over to me from St. Thomas's, was ordered to eat oranges, and other ripe fruit, to take three glasses of lemon-juice every day, to drink lemonade and cold water, and to bathe in the sea for a quarter of an hour every morning; in consequence of which he was soon restored to health.

T. Marshall, a coppersmith, a year and a half ago attacked with pleurisy, took a scruple of nitre in a glass of lemon-juice, and cloths dipped in cold water were applied to the pained part. In less than ten minutes the heat abated, and the patient declared himself perfectly well, and has continued so ever since.

A negro-woman, ill two days of fever, bilious vomiting, and excruciating pains in the stomach and bowels, took four ounces of lemon-juice, with half a dram of nitre; and had cloths, four times folded, dipped in cold water, laid on the pained parts from the neck downwards, and renewed every minute. The vomitings and pain ceased; and in less than two hours she was able to walk out, and has had no return of her complaints.

F. P.

LETTER CLIII.

From the same.

April 8, 1775.

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I received your kind present of a book, containing your practice as physician to a dispensary, which I have perused with much pleasure, in which I find you have mentioned my use of cold water in fevers, a practice which has never failed me*.

My boy, seized with a severe fit of ague, followed by a smart fever, and excruciating pains from head to foot, was put into a bathing-tub, and three pails full of cold water thrown over him, which affording some relief, he went to bed, and slept from eight to one in the morning, when he awoke with a return of fever and pains. He was again put in the bathing-tub, and large bowls of water poured

* "My friend, F. Pearce, Esq. of Santa Cruz, not only admits cold air, but cold water; for instead of giving two spoonfulls every three hours of some placebo, he orders the patient to be taken out of bed and supported, till two or three pails-full of cold water have been thrown upon him, which is repeated every three hours. This method, he assures me, generally cures a fever in forty-eight hours: by the success of which, the above gentleman has acquired considerable reputation abroad. He writes me that he prefers it to bark as a tonic and antiseptic."—Lettsom's Memoirs of the General Dispensary, 8vo. 1774, p. 18. Ed.

over him for a quarter of an hour, which eased his pains; and going to bed he slept till sun-rise, when he got up and went about his business as usual; but complaining of bilious eructations, he took a glass of lemon-juice, and bathed in the sea for half an hour, which completely cured him.

A negro of Mr. Evans's, reduced to a very low state by diarrhœa, was put into cold water up to the axillæ, and kept there as long as he could conveniently bear it: he was exposed to cold air, and took every two hours a glass-full of lemon-juice, with fifteen grains of alum; in consequence of which, he was restored to health in a few hours. A negro-woman of Mr. Hartman's, who had been complaining for several weeks of frequent discharges of slime, with severe gripings, and *prolapsus ani*, was cured in two or three days by the cold-bath, lime-juice, and alum.

A carpenter, reduced very low by a diarrhœa, which did not yield to the remedies employed by two physicians, was cured by a few doses of lime-juice and alum.

Mr. Smith, dancing-master, debilitated by the use of mercury, was attacked by a violent diarrhœa, and cured by one dose of fifteen grains of alum taken in lime-juice.

Epistaxis in a youth of sixteen, which had long resisted a variety of remedies, was cured in a day or two by taking half a scruple of alum in two table spoonfuls of lime-juice four times a-day,

drinking lemonade and cold water, and using the cold-bath every morning.

In dysentery, I now join alum to the lemon-juice, instead of table-salt.

A negro-girl of mine, seized with a fever, was well affused with cold water, which soon took off the fever, and a favourable eruption of small-pox appeared, and advanced well till two nights after their first appearance, when she sat by a large fire for some hours. In the morning the eruption disappeared, and the patient seemed much inflamed and uneasy. Several pails-full of cold water were thrown over her; she was exposed to cold air, and took lemon-juice and tamarinds. In a few hours the eruption came out again as favourably as could be wished, the pocks filling and drying up in a few days.

F. P.

LETTER CLIV.

From the same.

April 30, 1776.

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I am growing younger in constitution as I advance in years, proceeding chiefly from a diet entirely animal, using no drink but water and weak bohea tea without milk.

Persons who have been rendered stupid and unable to move a limb in consequence of taking too large a quantity of opium or camphor, have been recovered by throwing over them a pail-full of cold water, and giving them a glass of lemon-juice.

A new-laid egg with lemon-juice stopped a hiccup in a gentleman who had taken sweet oil and several things without relief.

F. P.

LETTER CLV.

From the same.

March 20, 1780.

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The cold bath is useful in tetanus and locked jaw. A negro-child, seven days old, was seized with locked jaw. Laudanum was given, and warm oil applied. Getting no better, I ordered cold applications to the jaws and throat, which soon cured it. If children were plunged and washed in cold water instead of warm every day from their birth, they would be greatly invigorated and secured from the disorders that destroy so many of them; provided that their clothing were thin and loose. Above all things they should be bathed in cold water while cutting their teeth. A child seized

with severe convulsions, accompanied with fever, and who had been blistered without effect, was cured by the cold bath.

When the bile gets into the stomach from the inverted motion of the duodenum, it surely cannot be right to advance that motion by emetics. I was called into a man very low and weak, vomiting bile, and complaining of great heat, a severe pain in his bowels, attended with costiveness, which repeated warm clysters had not relieved. I ordered one to be prepared cold, with molasses and water, and two table-spoonfulls of castor-oil and one of salt, which procured a considerable discharge, carrying off, with the assistance of acids by the mouth, all his complaints, so that he slept many hours, and recovered without any thing else. In inflammations of the intestines, clysters ought to be given cold. A farrier, ill some time of dysentery, took a glass of lemon-juice with two tea-spoonfulls of gunpowder, and repeated it four hours after, which perfectly cured him.

I have been much benefited by my diet of animal food, rejecting butter, cheese, milk, eggs, mustard, pepper, and onions. I make breakfasts of flesh-meat, but suppers I omit, as they disturb my rest.

Gleets and gonorrhœa I have frequently cured by the cold-bath and alum-whey.

F. P.

LETTER CLVI.

From the same.

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May 29, 1780.

Mr. Booth, whose father died crippled by gout from chalk stones and contractions, was seized with a violent pain and heat in one of his knees, occasioning a severe contraction, so that he could not put his foot to the ground. Tincture of guaiacum was given in such doses as to give three or four motions a-day, and folded cloths, frequently dipped in cold water, applied to the part, which relieved him in a short time. In this disease the diet should be animal food, a little light well-baked bread, with water for drink.

F. P.

LETTER CLVII.

From the same.

May 25, 1782.

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A youth of 16, attacked with erysipelatous fever and intense head-ach, took a scruple of nitre in

lemon-juice every hour, and his head being held over a pail of cold water, was well bathed, which removing the head-ach and fever, he fell asleep, and awoke perfectly well.

A young man, attacked with putrid fever, took large quantities of bark, had blisters applied to his thighs; but being given up by those who attended him, was ordered to be laid in a current of the coolest air, the coldest water to be thrown over him as often as should be necessary for reducing the fever, and his beverage to be made very sweet and tart, with as much alum in it as his stomach would bear. The ulcers on the thighs, which had mortified, were dressed with an ointment composed of oil, wax, turpentine, and calamine. These measures being steadily pursued, he was restored to perfect health in two or three days. Dr. J. Gordon, from Europe, and Mrs. Osborne, were restored to health by the same means in the last stage of a violent putrid fever, after bark and other remedies had proved ineffectual.

A woman labouring under a suppression of urine, I ordered cloths, dipped in cold water, to be wrapped round the waist, and a glass of lime-juice to be given, which in less than half an hour entirely removed the complaint.

F. P.

LETTER CLVIII.

From the same.

Oct. 12, 1782.

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The measles have been very rife and fatal here; many having lost their lives by hot treatment. All who have submitted to my practice, who were many, have got easily and well through the disease, as I have treated it with cold air, the cold bath, cold water beverage, and every thing cold, with ripe fruit.

Agues I have frequently cured by throwing over the patient five or six gallons of cold water, just as the cold fit is coming on, and giving a glass of lemon or lime-juice, with fifteen grains of nitre, or a scruple of sal ammoniac dissolved in it. The affusions are to be applied when the cold fit is coming on, and the spasms take place, which give way in a minute or two, and the fever is brought to the surface, subsisting but a short time after. To expedite the cure, a dose of guaiacum may be given immediately after, drinking cold water after it. I have never known these remedies fail in three or four attacks to remove the disease and prevent its return.

Chocolate, which I have drank largely morning and evening for two years past, I find greatly to promote urine and perspiration, but to lessen the alvine discharges.

F. P.

LETTER CLIX.

From the same.

Oct. 10, 1783.

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The remedies in disorders of the lungs are rest, cool air, the cold bath, ripe fruit, the whites of eggs mixed with lemon-juice, stewed prunes with lemon-juice, and sweet spirit of nitre, butter-milk, bonny claber, and what is called by the Scots sowings, by the English flummery, made tart by nature or art, and the yolks of the same eggs taken raw with a little salt and vinegar. Exercise cannot be proper in any stage of such complaints, as action increases the circulation and heat of the blood, and consequently quickens respiration. It is, indeed, very inconsiderate to order exercise in any complaint in which the heat, whether partial or universal, is above the natural standard. The motion of a vessel at sea differs widely from riding, walking, or any exercise on shore; as such heat the

body, while sea-voyages cool it, the patient being at rest, unfatigued, and breathing cool air. Rocking in a hammock or cradle may prove a succedaneum for sailing. I allow all which their stomachs call for, excepting fish and pork, and strong drink. I have, from inappetency, brought some of my patients to eat a large fat hen at a meal, with cold water for drink, which soon abated their coughs, and made them fleshy and strong, with a flow of spirits. I have allowed them to drink a quart of cold chocolate in the morning, another at noon, and a third in the evening, rich of the nut, but without milk or sugar. Cloths, dipped in cold water, were applied to the thorax of one far advanced, which, aided by animal food, chocolate, cold water, and a decoction of guaiacum, soon restored him to health.

F. P.

LETTER CLX.

From the same.

May 18, 1784.

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A negro-boy, who some time past had been bitten by a mad dog, had a high fever, violent inflammation of his head, so that he could not bear

to have it touched; a bleeding at the nose, the muscles of his neck convulsed, and every part of his frame convulsively pained, so that I was afraid the symptoms proceeded from the bite. A pail-full of cold water was poured over him slowly, after which he was exposed to the air, and cloths, dipped in cold water, applied to his head and neck. He took lime-juice, with white of egg and tamarinade; by which means he was soon restored to health. In hydrophobia, cloths dipt in the coldest water, and applied frequently to the head and breast, seem to bid fairest for relief.

A young woman, emaciated by a violent fever, had a pail-full of cold water thrown over her every two hours. Taking lime-juice, with white of egg, and drinking tamarinade and cold water, she was restored to health in a day or two.

F. P.

LETTER CLXI.

From the same.

July 1, 1785.

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In a very dangerous sore-throat which lately prevailed and carried off many, I cured all who came under my hands, by cloths dipped in cold

water applied to their necks and breasts, ordering vegetable acids, ripe fruit, cold water, and cold clysters of salt water and molasses, which I always use instead of purges.

A woman whom a midwife could not deliver, had cloths dipped in cold water laid upon the abdomen, as much cool air as possible was admitted, and every thing she took given cold; in consequence of which she was soon delivered of a large still-born child. She was abroad the third day.

F. P.

LETTER CLXII.

From the same.

April 10, 1787.

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Cloths doubled, dipped in cold water or vinegar and *sal ammoniac*, applied to the seat of pain, and frequently renewed, are extremely efficacious in bilious vomitings and colics, lethargies, sore throats, quinsies, pleurisies, tetanus, locked jaw, and ischury. I was just now applied to for one seized with violent bilious vomiting. I ordered cloths, dipped in cold water, to be frequently applied to the stomach, and preserved tamarinds to be eaten freely, which soon removed the complaint. In colics these applications must be accompanied

by a cold clyster of molasses and salt water; and in obstructions of urine, the patient must take lemon-juice, and sweet spirit of nitre.

F. P.

LETTER CLXIII.

From the same.

Sept. 18, 1787.

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By a diet of animal food and chocolate, I have cured cancers, strumas, leprosies, and other cutaneous diseases, and also mortifications, with the help of the cold bath and guaiacum. I have made many cures lately of consumptions after the hectic symptoms had taken place, and much blood and purulent matter been discharged. I direct them to drink cold chocolate, and also sour milk.

F. P.

LETTER CLXIV.

From the same.

Jan. 1, 1788.

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I have lately made use of cold wet cloths, constantly renewed to the chest of one far advanced

in consumption, which, with the use of thinner clothing, cold water for his drink, a decoction of guaiacum, chocolate, and animal food, removed the pain, occasioned free perspiration and expectoration, checked the cough, renewed the appetite, and restored the patient to perfect health. Coughs with hoarseness, &c. called colds, must be treated in the same way, as I have often proved. Warm treatment leads them rapidly into consumption.

F. P.

LETTER CLXV.

From the same.

Sept. 20, 1788.

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By my diet of animal food and chocolate, I have extended my life nearly to the age of seventy-two. I have lived on animal food, mostly fish and pork, for the last fifteen years, and I have not drank any water since I began the use of chocolate, which is seven years ago. Of this I take every day from three to four quarts cold without milk or sugar, eating three pounds of fish and pork.

F. P.

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